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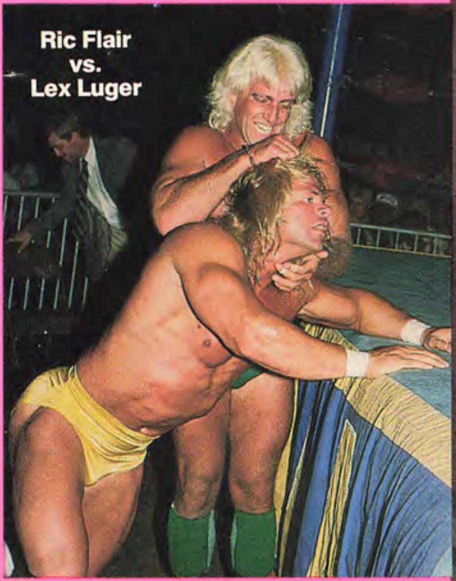

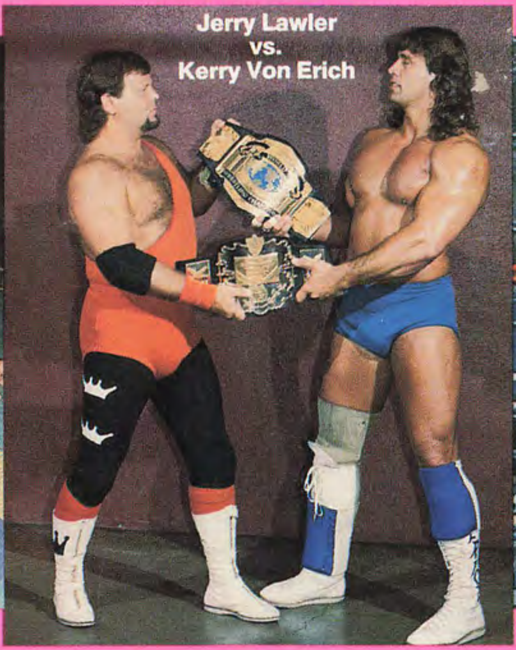

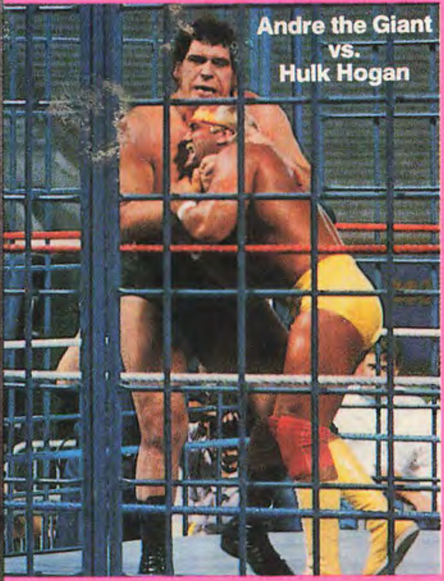

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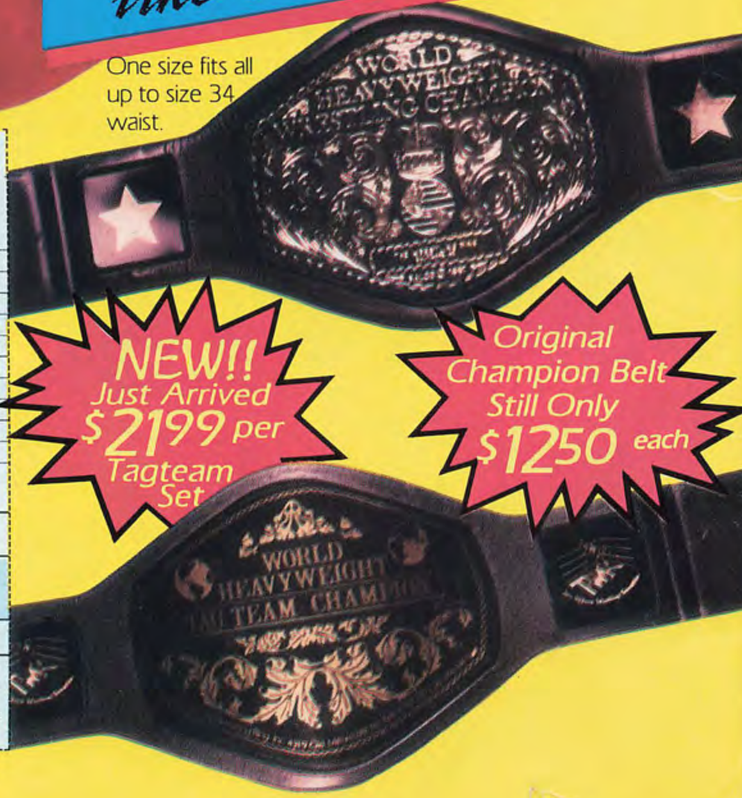

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YOUR LETTERS

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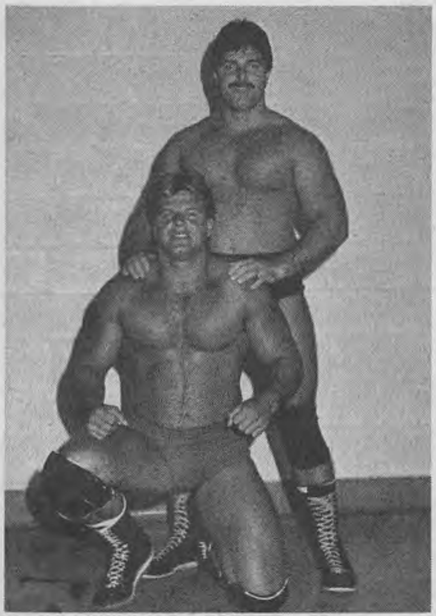
TAKE 'EM BACK!

I'm writing to commend you for your October 1988 article "O Canada: Take Back The Rougeaus!" What an appropriate title! I agreed with everything your article said. I was a little upset, however, by some of the tactics Jacques and Raymond Rougeau have used—and may continue to use.

I agree that they are sneaky and snide. I didn't mind them at first, but lately they've become irritating. I love America and I feel as though they are mocking our country by waving their flags. I usually turn off the sound on the TV when they are on.



Raymond and Jacques Rougeau are not loved by reader Marilyn Straub.

What really ticked me off, however, was the rumor that the Rougeaus are out to get my favorite wrestler, Jim Duggan. If they don't watch out, Duggan's 2x4 will be used against them just as it was used against Andre the Giant. I would greatly enjoy a Rougeaus vs. Duggan and Ultimate Warrior tag team match. Hacksaw would teach those Canadians who's boss!

The Rougeaus call themselves "Fabulous." They're nowhere near that. They don't love America, they don't belong in the WWF, and I feel that the WWF has been taken in by the "Foolish" Rougeaus. America and the WWF would both be better off without them.

MARILYN STRAUB
Toledo, OH

HE'S THE MAX

After capturing the CWA championship and the CWA tag team championship (with Gary Young), Max Pain is now becoming a major attraction throughout the AWA. Although he is no longer a CWA beltholder, Pain has increased his stature in the wrestling world.

Max Pain manhandles Mike Graham. Dwayne Soper feels that Pain could be one of the greats.

If Max can be nominated for Rookie of the Year, he will surely win it. I've seen another wrestler who had Pain's talent, but turned out to be the biggest disappointment. That wrestler was Bam Bam Bigelow. I don't think this inability to realize potential will affect Max. He has something special.

This guy has it all: 350 pounds packed in a 6'6" frame and he is able to go toe to toe with the strongest men in the business. He has natural power to rival King Kong Bundy, and he has excellent speed for his size. More important, this guy can *wrestle.* He is a three-time all-American amateur wrestler and was trained professionally by one of the all-time greats, Antonio Inoki.

This monster of a man has all he needs to be a world champion.

DWAYNE SOPER
Marystown, Newfoundland

TUNNEL VISION?

The NWA and WWF are not the entire world! Neither federation's champions ever leave their area. Ric Flair and Randy Savage only defend their titles against wrestlers in their own promotion, wrestlers they know they can beat day in and day out.

Jerry Lawler, however, has not only defended the AWA World championship in the AWA, but also in the CWA, Continental, and World Class areas. He also plans to defend the title in Great Britain and Japan. That's a *world* title!

I think your ratings should be changed to reflect this: Lawler should be number one! He's even beaten both Flair and Savage in the past. It is a known fact that Lawler has offered the NWA and WWF champions a rematch for his belt. But Jim Crockett and Vince McMahon denied Lawler those bouts. What are they afraid of?

Make Jerry Lawler number one—now!

JON LATHAM
Memphis, TN

WHICH EXPRESS?

Jim Cornette's Midnight Express is the best tag team in the NWA. Bobby Eaton's aerial skills and Stan Lane's martial arts ability combine to make an unbeatable duo. All of this is topped off by wrestling's most ingenious manager, Jim Cornette.

For the past couple of years, the Midnights have dominated the NWA. They held the United States tag team title for close to a year before losing it to The Fantastics. Then, just several weeks later, they shocked everyone by reclaiming the belts in Baltimore.

During their reign, they have successfully defended against every top team in the NWA. They have done exceptionally well in both of their Crockett Cup appearances and were voted 1987's Tag Team of the Year by the readers of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated.* No other team's credentials even come close to those of the Midnights.

Now, Cornette and Co. have challenged NWA World champions Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson, and I believe that in just a couple of months The Midnight Express will dethrone the champions. That will complete their domination of the sport.

ARESH HOMAYOUN
Potomac, MD

According to correspondent Aresh Homayoun, The Midnight Express (Bobby Eaton, Jim Cornette, and Stan Lane) is the best team in the NWA. Many believe that the Midnights will beat Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson for the World belts.

RESPECT FOR WINDHAM?

I am writing to categorically disagree with Leslie Williams' letter in your October 1988 issue ("A Little Respect"). Throughout her unintelligent letter, Williams berated Lex Luger for being egotistical. A predictable assessment from a woman who refers to Barry Windham, Luger's traitorous partner, as a "more giving" person.

While I am adamant in my support for the First Amendment granting

(Continued on page 52)

Barry Windham uses the clawhold on Dusty Rhodes. Reader Kurt Hirsch has no respect for Barry.

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

By BILL APTER

THE LONGEST WWF Intercontinental title reign ever has ended! **The Ultimate Warrior**, substituting for the injured **Brutus Beefcake**, stormed the ring and pinned **The Honky Tonk Man** in 31 seconds to win the belt at SummerSlam 88 on August 29 at Madison Square Garden in New York.

Beefcake was forced to withdraw from the match after **Ron Bass** raked his scalp and forehead with a pair of boot spurs at a WWF television taping. Beefcake was sent to a hospital to undergo testing, but Honky Tonk, in a rare show of courage at SummerSlam, offered to wrestle *any* available challenger. Apparently, Honky Tonk was never told that Ultimate Warrior accepted his challenge.

After entering the ring carrying his guitar and accompanied by manager **Jimmy Hart**, Honky Tonk waited a few moments for his challenger, then shouted into the ring microphone, "I don't care *who* I wrestle as long as you get someone in the ring!" Seconds later, Ultimate Warrior rushed down the runway and charged into the ring, catching Honky Tonk off-guard.

The Ultimate Warrior celebrates after winning the Intercontinental title from The Honky Tonk Man at SummerSlam 88. The Warrior took only 31 seconds to end Honky Tonk's 14-month title reign.

Warrior caught Honky Tonk with a trio of punches that sent the champion sprawling to the mat. Ultimate scooped Honky Tonk off the canvas, delivered a bodyslam, and followed up with a shouldertackle, a clothesline, and a big splash. Warrior hooked Honky Tonk's leg and covered him for the three-count.

Honky Tonk won the belt from **Rick Steamboat** on June 2, 1987, and held the title for one year, two months, and 27 days. He became the longest-reigning I-C champ on

(Continued on page 58)

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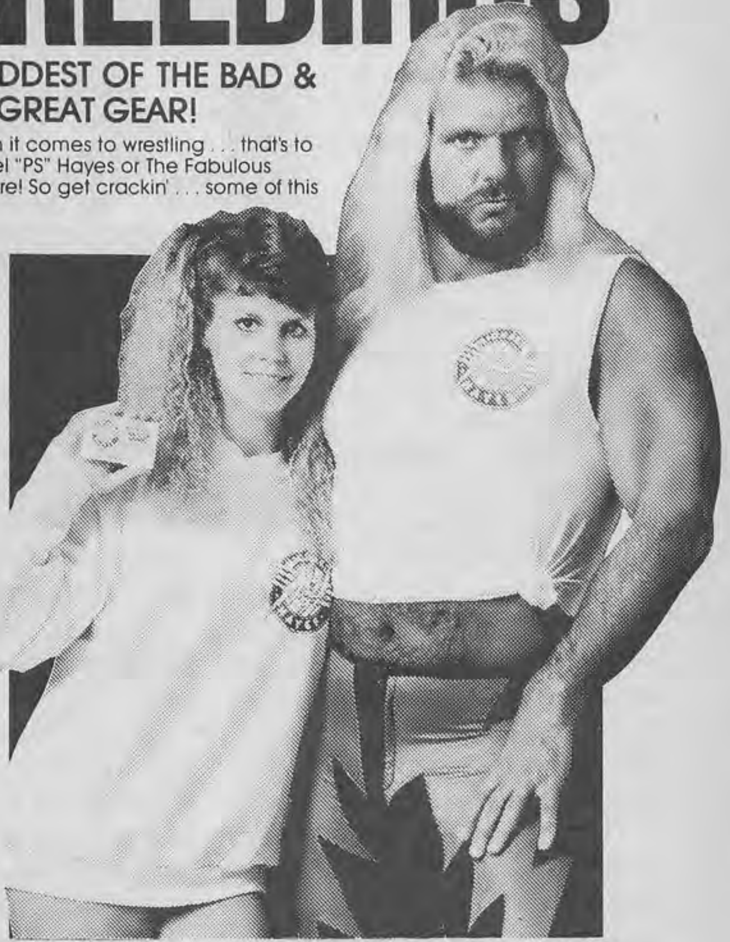

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WIN LOSE OR DRAW

BY ANDY RODRIGUEZ

BOBBY HEENAN blew it. In The Islanders, he had his best chance yet to manage champions in the WWF, and he allowed Haku and Tama to split up.

Maybe Heenan isn't such a "Brain."

The Islanders were a very good scientific team (without a manager) when they debuted in the WWF about a year ago. Despite their promise, they hardly rose in the WWF tag team rankings. Championship teams like The Hart Foundation and The British Bulldogs didn't respect their considerable abilities or take them seriously.

But Heenan saw something in Haku and Tama that he liked, and he offered them a contract. He encouraged them to change their style, saying that it was the only way they were going to get anywhere in the sport. They agreed.

"Haku and Tama had to admit that Heenan was right," said a close friend who requested anonymity. "To this day, I still believe they're basically nice guys, but they felt that in order to win they would have to do things *Heenan's* way."

And for a while, Heenan's way was working. The Islanders quickly developed a reputation as both a good and a *mean* team, winning matches with a combination of technical precision and sheer brutality. Along the way, Heenan had them doing some strange things—like kidnapping the Bulldogs' mascot, Matilda.

Suddenly, Tama was gone. The WWF never gave an official explanation for his departure, and neither did Heenan. Haku also wasn't talking.

"Tama just couldn't put up with Heenan anymore," the friend said. "Oh, he's gotten along fine with Haku, but he was having a lot of second thoughts about Heenan's methods. All Tama wants to do is *wrestle;* that's his life. He doesn't want to kidnap dogs."

So what did Heenan do to keep his team together? Nothing. Maybe he was too busy with Andre the Giant and Ted DiBiase. Or Rick Rude. Or Hercules Hernandez. Or maybe even his duties as co-host of *Prime Time Wrestling.* These days, "The Brain" has a

(Continued on page 62)

Vince McMahon interviews Bobby Heenan while The Islanders, Tama and Haku, stand by. Andy Rodriguez thinks "The Brain" isn't as smart as he thinks.

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- Spring 1987 *Wrestling Superstars*—featuring a full-color "Action Gallery" centerfold of Hogan career highlights
- August 1987 *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*—"Giant Killer! Hogan Topples Andre At WrestleMania III!"
- May 1988 *Sports Review Wrestling*—"Special Section: The Andre-Hogan Feud—A Pictorial History!"
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BLINDSIDED

BY BOB SMITH

A DOZEN OR so secretaries are *still* busy applying soothing balms and salves to their fingers. The reason: the tabulation and compilation of tens of thousands of ballots in the "Wrestling's Sexiest Superstar" poll in our sister publication *Wrestling Superstars.* Judging from the tremendous response to the survey (won this year by Rick Rude; full results to be found in that magazine's Winter 1988 issue), it would be easy to assume that the most successful pro wrestlers are the ones who painstakingly sculpt their bodies into slabs of rock-hard muscle with hours of training and gym work.

"Bull," responds Phil Hickerson.

Robert Fuller with Phil Hickerson

Hickerson is clearly at the opposite end of the sex-appeal spectrum. Announced as weighing 257—but exceeding that amount in reality by at least 50 pounds—this balding veteran hasn't set foot in a gym since high school. He delivers TV interviews while slurping on containers of coffee. He has a tire around his gut that would make the Michelin man proud. He is clearly out of shape—*way* out of shape.

He's also the CWA heavyweight champion.

"Those pretty boys can kiss my sweet patootie," said Hickerson in his gravely Tennessee drawl. "To me, spending hours in a gym is a waste. One of the biggest lies in wrestling is that you have to look like a Greek god in order to win. That's not what it's about, Jack. It takes guts and skill to defeat your opponents, and that's something the glitter boys can't understand. Being a *real* winner has nothing to do with how pretty you look to women."

Hickerson has lots of company in proving that point. Maniacal Buck Robley has returned to the ring after a four-year absence and he looks like he hibernated during his hiatus. Sporting sloping shoulders, incredibly poor posture, reed-thin arms, and a bulging midsection, the chrome-domed Robley has nevertheless been the terror of the Southern Championship area for months.

Of course, there are those who believe that Robley is certifiably insane. They claim that his deranged mind more than makes up for his lack of physical skills. But there is no denying that Robley is still a very capable wrestler, despite not fitting the mold of the modern, well-built stars.

Then there's "Playboy" Buddy Rose, a former AWA tag team champion, who has ballooned up to well over 350 pounds while wrestling in the Portland area; Makhan Singh, the 380-pound terror who's the current North American champion in the Stampede area; and Kamala, the Ugandan monster who slaps his ever-expanding midsection during his matches.

All of these men, however, pale in comparison with the champion of grotesque physical specimens—Abdullah the Butcher. His weight is listed at 360, but recent inspections would suggest that this walking flab farm is closer to 500 pounds. Long famous for his incredible bulk, Abby seems to have gained new layers of girth during the last year, but he probably doesn't care. He gains more bloodlust with each additional pound.

Hickerson, Rose, Abdullah, and the other members of this corpulent club are probably on the most wanted lists at health spas across the country, but they continue to prove that you don't have to look like Rick Rude—or Ultimate Warrior or Lex Luger or Brutus Beefcake—to win wrestling matches. This slovenly breed surely isn't sexy, but it *is* successful.

"I'd just love to get a match with that sissy boy Rude," said Hickerson. "I'd smother him."

No doubt. □

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Thumbs Up

Each issue, *The Wrestler* will praise the noteworthy and damn those who violate the honor of wrestling. The praiseworthy receive a Thumbs Up, the disgraceful are marked with a Thumbs Down. Here is this month's roll of honor and shame.

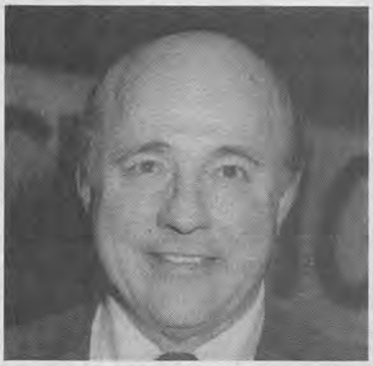
Thumbs Up to Jerry Lawler. He's the King of decency! Jerry Lawler, AWA World champion and ambassador of the sport, proved his trustworthiness once again by volunteering to give up the World Class belt he won from Kerry Von Erich. When Lawler watched tapes of the match and realized that Kerry had his foot on the ropes when the pin was made, he immediately informed Kerry, as well as AWA and WCCW officials. He didn't have to do this. There's nothing in the rulebooks allowing for a decision to be changed after it has been made official. But Lawler stood up for what's right. He's a man's man!

Thumbs Up to Missy Hyatt. Finally, Missy is doing something for herself. When Samoans Sika and Kokina grabbed Missy's arms so Alan Martin could kiss her on the lips, Missy begged Eddie Gilbert to take care of Martin. But Gilbert replied that Martin is his friend and Missy should take care of her own matters. So that's what Missy did. She's now acting as manager/valet for any team The Samoans or Martin wrestle, and, for the first time in memory, taking matters into her own hands. As for Gilbert—well, there's not much we can say about a man who won't stand up for his wife.

Thumbs Up to The Ultimate Warrior. After spending too much time on the WWF treadmill, this incredible physical specimen finally has his career going in the right direction with a series of matches against Intercontinental champion The Honky Tonk Man. Better yet, Ultimate appears ready to make the most of his chance. He actually pinned Honky Tonk in Providence, Rhode Island, although WWF President Jack Tunney ruled that it wasn't an officially sanctioned match. The victory proved, however, that it's only a matter of time before the I-C title belongs to The Ultimate Warrior.

Thumbs Up to Dick Murdoch. Several times in his career, this tough veteran has had to make a tough decision: continue down the road to evil or help out the people who are really his friends. So it's good to see that Murdoch and Dusty Rhodes, "The Outlaws," are back together again. Murdoch saved Rhodes from the wrath of The Sheik and Kevin Sullivan and risked serious injury in doing so. Now Murdoch, Rhodes, and Nikita Koloff have formed an alliance that promises to be a powerful NWA force. Welcome back to the side of good, Dick Murdoch. You've been missed!

Thumbs Down



Thumbs Down to Verne Gagne. We've waited, and waited, and waited, and at press time we were *still* waiting for the special announcement, "the biggest in AWA history," that Gagne has been promising us for weeks on ESPN. But every week, Verne, or spokesman Al DeRusha, claims that a few minor details have to be ironed out before the announcement can be made. So we must ask: *Is* there a special announcement? Maybe there *was* an announcement, but something happened and the AWA is trying to cover its tracks. Well, we'll soon know for sure. They have to tell us sometime . . . don't they?

Thumbs Down to Robert Fuller. The "Tennessee Stud" is now temporarily wheelchair-bound, having suffered a leg injury during a match against Bill Dundee. But our sympathies aren't with him. How can we feel sorry for a man who took advantage of racial tensions by presenting a watermelon to Brickhouse Brown as a gift? "Where's the fried chicken?" Brown said sarcastically to Fuller, his pride badly hurt by a man who is supposed to be his friend. Well, they're friends no more, and Fuller must suffer Brown's wrath. Go get him, Brickhouse!

Thumbs Down to Elizabeth. An itsy-bitsy, teenie-weenie, yellow polkadot bikini? At ringside? During one of the most important matches of the year, a tag team confrontation between the Megapowers and Megabucks at SummerSlam? Not quite, but Elizabeth certainly did go beyond the bounds of decency when she took off her skirt to distract Andre the Giant and Ted DiBiase. Elizabeth portrays herself as an intelligent manager who has played a large part in the success of WWF World champion Randy Savage. But undressing at ringside to distract opponents wipes out all the good she has done. Cover up, young lady!

Thumbs Down to J.J. Dillon. We've had enough, and have just one thing to say: The rules apply to you, too, J.J.! First, Dillon tried to avoid granting The Midnight Express a match against NWA World tag champs Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson. Then, Jim Cornette announced that Bobby Eaton and Stan Lane wanted to wrestle Ric Flair for the NWA World title. Dillon countered by ordering Tully and Arn to attack Eaton in the dressing room while Lane was wrestling in a singles match. This was a criminal act that goes far beyond the rules of this great sport. Dillon should be prosecuted—immediately! □

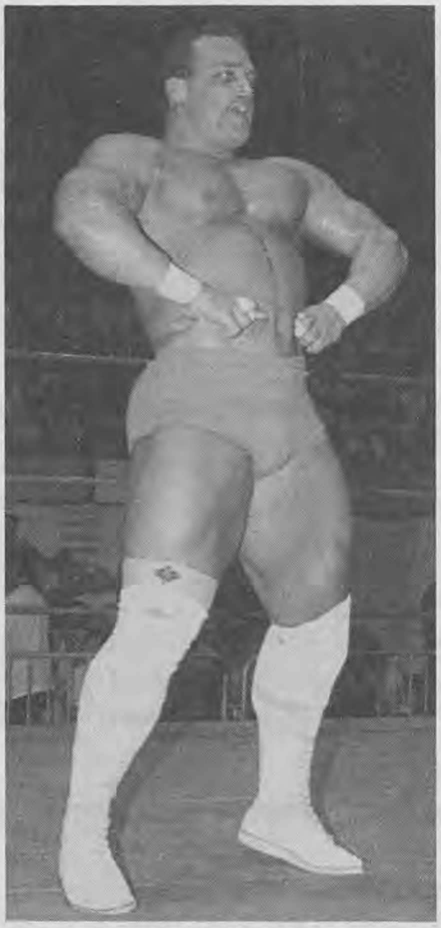
CORRESPONDENTS REPORTS

Knoxville, TN ***(Correspondents—Becky & Darrick Goodman):*** Jerry "The King" Lawler put his AWA World title on the line against Doug Furnas at the Civic Coliseum in a match that began and ended in controversy.

During the preliminary instructions, the referee discovered a foreign object in Lawler's boot and announced that he was disqualifying the champion before the match started. Realizing he could not lose the title through disqualification, Lawler accepted the decision and began to return to the dressing room. But Furnas, the crowd favorite, asked the referee to change his decision and allow him a chance at the belt. Despite Lawler's objections, the ref put the object into his pocket and ordered the match to start.

Lawler was frustrated from the start as he missed a flying elbowdrop and a fistdrop. After several blows failed to hurt Furnas, Lawler delivered a piledriver, which also had no effect on the challenger. Furnas then delivered three consecutive flying dropkicks and sent the champion to the mat.

"The King" gained the momentum with a cheap shot when a ringside fan distracted the ref. Lawler took the match outside the ring and punished Furnas, sending him over the ringside barrier and onto the floor next to the fans' seats.



Doug Furnas gave AWA World champion Jerry Lawler one of his toughest title matches.

Seconds later, the match returned to the ring, where Furnas mounted a comeback. Furnas pressed Lawler above his head and slammed the champion to the canvas.

When the ref became caught in an exchange of moves, Lawler got the chance to send Furnas through the ropes and again to the floor. Lawler then removed the foreign object from the referee's pocket and waited for Furnas to return. After downing Furnas with the object, Lawler put it back in the ref's pocket and revived him. Lawler covered Furnas for the pin and retained the title.

Furnas, however, was not satisfied with the decision. Furnas's contention that Lawler hit him with the object was discounted by the ref, as the object was still in his pocket. Furnas hit the referee, took the object from him, and floored Lawler. Furnas then took the AWA belt, telling Lawler that if he wanted the belt to come and get it. AWA officials later confronted Furnas in the dressing room and retrieved the belt for the champion.

In other bouts: Scott Armstrong pinned Nelson Royal . . . Davey & Johnny Rich battled The Rock 'n' Roll RPMs to a no-contest decision . . . The Bullet beat Bill Dundee by DQ . . . Wendell Cooley defeated The Stormtrooper . . . Todd Morton beat The Mongolian Stomper by DQ . . . The Dog defeated The Starfighter.

(Continued on page 64)

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YOU ASKED US

This is the monthly feature that answers ALL your most important questions about the mat sport, the stars, and the feuds. Send us your most perplexing queries and we'll have them answered for you by the world's finest grapplers and most insightful mat reporters. Address your questions to: YOU ASKED US, c/o THE WRESTLER, P.O. Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY 11571.

Q: "I'd like to ask Kerry Von Erich a question: Kerry, since World Class has a virtual 'open-door' policy regarding title matches, who do you think will be your toughest competition for the World Class heavyweight belt?"—Stephanie Fricks, Amarillo, TX

A: "Well, right now I've got enough to think about," Von Erich answered, "what with my belt-against-belt matches against AWA World champion Jerry Lawler, plus the intense competition in World Class itself. Also, I've got a score to settle with Iceman Parsons for what he did to me when I substituted for my injured brother Kevin. I lost Kevin's Texas title, and I'll be damned if I'm going to forget about it in pursuit of my own goals. Kevin's my blood, and I owe him."

***

Q: "My question is for Ronnie Garvin. Why did you leave the NWA?"—John Chiansese, Larchmont, NY

A: "The main reason I left," replied Garvin. "was because of a contractual disagreement with the NWA. I'm definitely sad to go, but I've got to get paid what I deserve. Besides, I've done everything I ever set out to accomplish here. I had a long career, I won the World belt, I won the U.S. tag team belt, I've really done it all. And then, I accomplished something that I waited a long time to accomplish: I humiliated Dusty Rhodes, a man who thinks everybody in the whole world should live in his shadow. Well, I wanted to serve notice that I don't, Dusty. I won't live in your shadow anymore. I'm free of you. I'm only thankful that I got my chance to embarrass you publicly."

Ronnie Garvin and Dusty Rhodes in happier times. These carefree days are long gone as Garvin has not only betrayed Dusty, but also left the NWA.

***

Q: "My question is for Austin Idol. I am wondering if you, 'The Universal Heartthrob,' will return to the NWA and let IdolMania run rampent."—Keith Tribbett, Ladson, SC

A: "Well, I have to admit it *would* be nice to go back to the NWA," Idol declared. "I wrestled with some great men there. But right now I'm far too busy to think of anything but my highest priorities. One of those priorities is to put Eddie Gilbert and his manager, Paul E. Dangerously, out of the game. They're a disgusting infection that I have to eliminate. Another priority is to get that AWA World belt from Jerry Lawler. Getting that belt is something I've dreamed about for a long time."

***

Q: "Now that The Midnight Rockers are in the WWF, I want to ask Editor-in-Chief Stu Saks if he thinks they have a chance to beat Demolition."—Jenny Harrison, Piqua, OH

A: "None at all," Saks said with certainty. "You see, Jenny, The Rockers probably won't get title shots right away. Usually, when a well-known team enters the WWF, it takes a while before they gain the respect they enjoyed in other federations. Also, The Rockers may prove to be just too small to beat Demolition or even the top challengers, The Powers of Pain. If there was a WWF Intercontinental *tag team* belt, then I would say The Rockers would have a shot at some WWF glory. As it is now, however, they won't beat Demolition."

***

Q: "I'd like to ask Associate Editor Dave Rosenbaum if he thought the Lex Luger-Ric Flair match in Balti-

(Continued on page 56)

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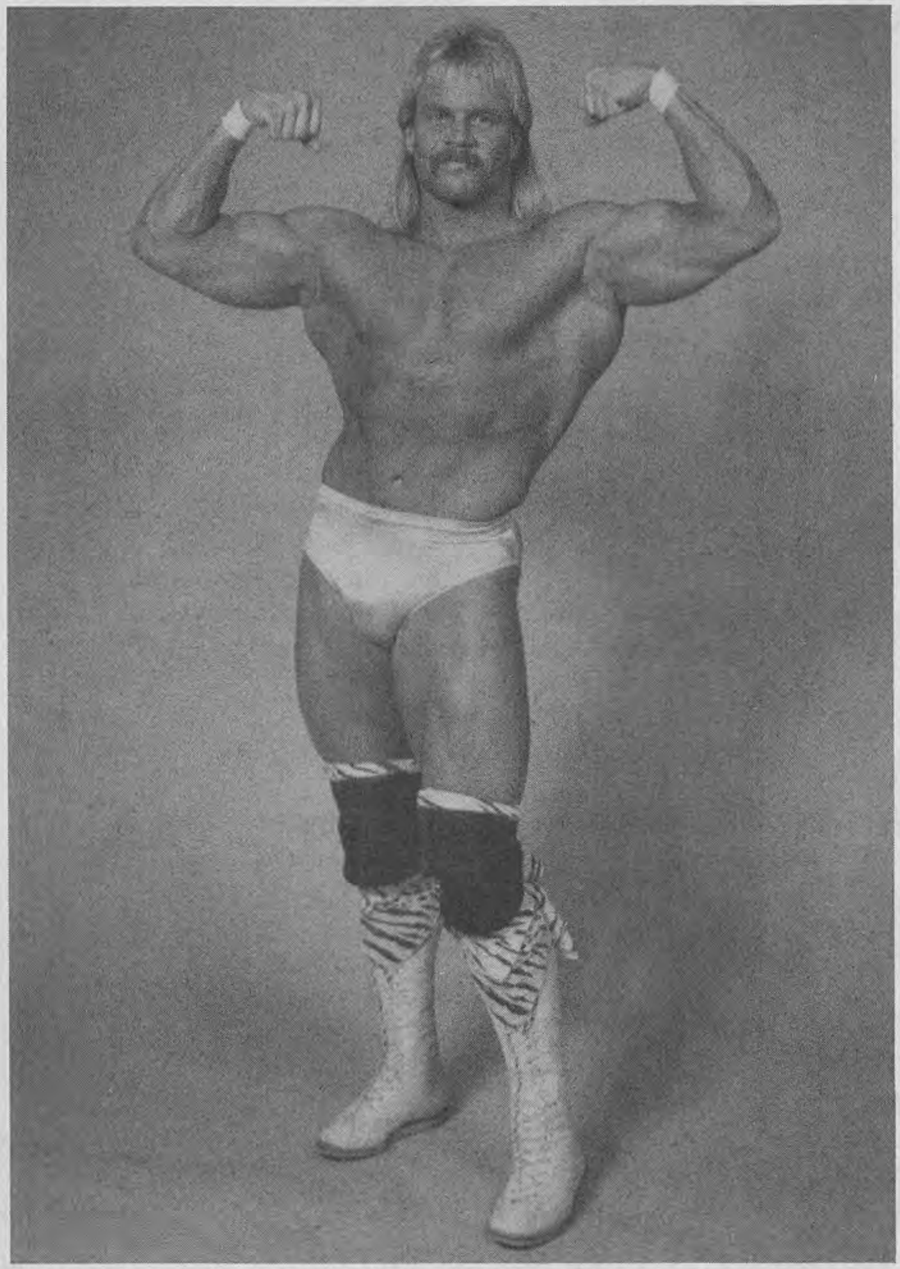
INTRODUCING

STEVEN CASEY



Since entering wrestling last spring, Steven Casey has proven himself to the fans—and to World Class junior heavyweight champ Eric Embry. Casey has targeted Embry and is gaining ground on the veteran.

IF YOU ASK Eric Embry who the most persistent challenger to his World Class junior heavyweight title is, the flamboyant veteran doesn't even flinch.

"It's gotta be that Casey kid," said Embry. "He's given me some pretty tough battles. He's never gonna beat me, but you have to give him credit for trying."

Steven Casey has come a lot closer to winning Embry's title than the rulebreaking champion will admit. World Class fans have been thrilled and surprised by the vast talents displayed by the superbly muscled 232-pound hometown product, already a big favorite with Sportatorium fans.

"It's really great to be accepted by your home folks," said the soft-spoken Casey, who grew up in Dallas. "It's like a dream come true to be able to do well as a wrestler. To be able to do it right in front of your friends and neighbors makes it that much better."

Casey, 26 years old, began his career last spring in World Class after undergoing a rigorous training program administered by wrestlers Steve Doll—currently competing in the Pacific Northwest—and Scott Casey—now with the WWF.

"I was really fortunate," said Casey. "I was introduced to Kerry Von Erich, and I got to know him

(Continued on page 68)

Steven Casey has emerged as the biggest threat to Eric Embry's World Class junior heavyweight title. In the eyes of many World Class fans, Casey has already proven himself a true champion

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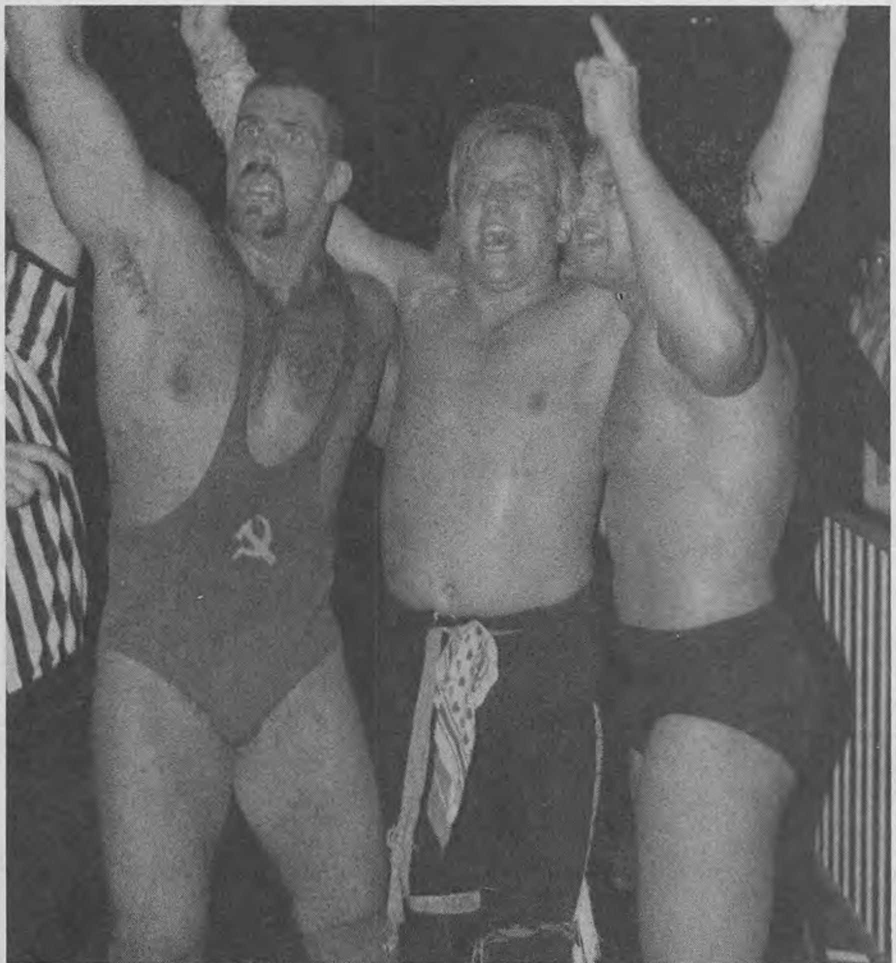
Q&A

Each month, *The Wrestler* will present a "Question and Answer" forum with an important figure in the wrestling world. It is your chance to meet wrestling's biggest stars as they answer the questions uppermost in the fans' minds



Nikita Koloff, Rick Morton, and Brad Armstrong know who's number one. Morton has been getting a lot of support from his friends since the breakup of The Rock 'n' Roll Express.

Q: Rick, thanks for your time. It's a shame we have to conduct this interview under such tragic circumstances.

A: Tragic? What's a tragedy, Bobby?

Q: Well, a lot of the fans are really shook up over the breakup of The Rock 'n' Roll Express. Many of them have told me that they just can't picture you two separately. You and Robert achieved amazing success as a team, but now it's finished, apparently.

A: It *is* true that Robert and myself were one of the best tag teams ever, but I wouldn't go so far as to call our split a *tragedy*—and there's no rule that says this means forever, either. I mean, there are worse things to get shook up about, aren't there? I hope the fans don't waste a lot of their tears on us, because you never know when you may see us together again. Robert is my best friend, and I want everyone to know that The Rock 'n' Roll Express will *never* die. We're just taking a break, because we have different career goals right now.

Q: What *are* Robert's career goals? He's kept kind of a low profile lately.

A: Well, it looks like Robert's gonna go back to the AWA. We had Bad Company on the run for months, and I know that the AWA World tag title was something that Robert

RICK MORTON

AFTER FIVE YEARS together, The Rock 'n' Roll Express—Rick Morton and Robert Gibson—have gone their separate ways. Morton had wrestled in singles matches for several weeks, but when the official announcement of the breakup came on August 2, it still managed to shock and sadden their legion of loyal fans.

Morton and Gibson amassed one of the most enviable tag team records in modern history. From the moment they emerged on the mat scene, they established themselves as top contenders. On July 9, 1985, they defeated Ivan Koloff and Krusher Khrushchev for the first of their four NWA World tag team titles.

Together, Morton and Gibson ruled the NWA's tag team scene for three years. They became so dominant that they earned Tag Team of the Year honors from the readers of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* in 1986, ending The Road Warriors' three-year control of the award. In 1988, the Express left the NWA for the AWA, then returned to the NWA at the overwhelming demand of the fans. But now the Express is no more.

While Gibson has set his sights on returning to the AWA, Morton has several new goals, not the least of which is capturing Ric Flair's World heavyweight title. Assistant Editor Bob Smith ventured to Charlotte, North Carolina, for Morton's comments on the surprising demise of a remarkably popular team.

Although they were one of the most popular tag teams in history, Morton and Robert Gibson thought it was time for a change.

really wanted to win. We came *so* close to copping those belts just a few months ago, and it was kind of a shame that we left the AWA when we did. It was only a matter of time before [Pat] Tanaka and [Paul] Diamond were gonna fall. Before he left, Robert asked me if I wanted to come with him to the AWA, but I told him that I didn't really want to, because I had missed the NWA and I thought that I should try to gain some of the singles titles here. That's really all there was to it.

Q: Was Robert upset that you two never received any title shots upon returning to the NWA this past June?

A: That had a *lot* to do with it. Robert has held so many championships that he feels naked without a belt, and I don't blame him. He was a little bit more impatient to get a title shot than I was, it seems. So now he's gone, but I'm going to stay in the NWA.

Q: I take it that the petition campaign in the June 1988 issue of *Inside Wrestling* influenced your decision to stick around.

A: Absolutely, baby. You know, more than 17,000 of our fans responded to that poll, and I think it would be bad for me just to up and leave right after I came back. Everybody knows that the fans have always been first and foremost in my mind, daddy, and they're the people I've been fighting for throughout my whole career. After I saw all the mail you guys got, I knew that the fans feel the same way about me. I'm not about to abandon them now, because there's a whole lot of work to be done right here in the NWA.

Q: The rumors have been flying about who you might pick as your new tag team partner. Recently, Nikita Koloff announced that he would tag with you anytime, and you've been working with Brad Armstrong as well. Have you made a decision on a permanent replacement for Robert?

A: Well, as you know, *nobody* can replace Robert, not in my mind or in the minds of the fans. It's been really nice working with Brad, be-

cause he's one of the best young wrestlers in the sport today. He's the son of the legendary Bob Armstrong, and he's surprised me with how fast and strong he is. As for Nikita, I was stunned when he came out on TV and told the people that he would back me up anytime, anywhere. How can you go wrong with a friend like Nikita? As far as a *permanent* partner, though, I'm not so sure right now. It's not going to be easy to team with anyone but Robbie on a regular basis, but I guess it's something I'm going to have to get used to. But there are too many tempting titles whetting my appetite right about now.

Q: Do you still have your sights set on the NWA World tag team title?

A: You bet your life, pal. We defeated Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson before, and with any luck and the right partner, I should be able to defeat them again. Those two turkeys have got to be the most overrated team in wrestling history. The only way they can hang on to those belts is outside interference by J.J. Dillon and the other Four Horsemen. But I do believe that their time is coming to an end. I also have some unfinished business with the men who *really* cost me and Robert our last World title.

Q: Obviously you mean The Midnight Express.

A: Exactly, daddy. The only reason we lost our fourth NWA title was because Jim Cornette, Stan Lane, and Bobby Eaton attacked us on our way to the ring. Those three fools never *could* fight like men, anyway. They hit us from behind with chairs and Corndog's tennis racket, and they messed up my shoulder pretty bad. Robert threw in the towel for me when they were attacking my shoulder, and I'll always be thankful for that, because he saved me from permanent injury. But I'm gonna put some permanent hurtin' on the Midnights. All I need is a good partner to help me do it.

Q: I've heard you talking about Ric Flair's World title a lot lately, too. Would you like a rematch with the champion?

A: Does a pig like rollin' in the mud? You *know* I would! You know, there are a truckload of wrestlers out there who are bigger than Rick Morton, and you know there are a lot of men who are stronger physically. But if you go back to 1986, me and Flair had a hellacious series of title matches, didn't we? That bleached-blond joker took me pretty lightly, but after a while he realized that I'm nobody to be messin' with. Out of all the men who got title shots back then, I truly believe that I gave Flair his toughest matches of the year. There's no doubt about it in my mind.

Q: Is there anything you would do differently against Flair this time around?

A: Sure—I wouldn't lose this time! (*laughs*) But seriously, I know a lot more about Flair now than I did

A bloodied Rick Morton battles NWA World champion Ric Flair in 1986 (above). Morton attempts a flying bodypress against Rip Morgan (below). Morton hopes to continue wrestling singles matches.

before I faced him last time. Now I know that he'd do *anything* to hold onto that precious belt of his. Last time, he busted up my nose and nearly shredded my face to pieces. That won't happen this time. Now I know *exactly* what I have to do to beat him. All I want is the chance to prove it.

Q: All a lot of the fans want, though, is to see you and Robert back together again. Is there any chance of seeing that happen in the near future?

A: Well, you know the old expression, "never say never." People like Gary Hart, Cornette, and Dillon liked to put The Rock 'n' Roll Express down, but there's no denying that we were the best tag team in the NWA, and that's a stone fact, man. We did just about everything we set out to do, and now we're going to look out for ourselves for awhile. So, really, our fans shouldn't feel too bad. They only have to remember that me and Robbie love 'em all a whole lot, and hopefully we'll be back as a unit again soon.

Q: Of course, there *is* the possibility that you two may *never* team again. If you were to win a singles title, that certainly wouldn't leave much time for tag teaming.

A: That's true. Right now, *anything* could happen, and it's pretty exciting for me. I've petitioned NWA officials for bouts with all the champions, and if I keep winning all my matches it should be no time at all before I'm fighting for the gold. I could end up as a tag team champion, the U.S. champion, or even the World champion! I'm not setting my sights low just because Robbie left. I'm gunning for the best I can get, 'cause these fans truly deserve the best.

Q: Well, Rick, thanks for your time, and good luck with your "new" career.

A: Thank you, Bobby. And remember, rock 'n' roll ain't never gonna die—it's just time for a brand-new song. □

Wrestling 88

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Wrestler SPOT LIGHTS...

From time to time, *The Wrestler* will shine its spotlight on an outstanding wrestler, manager, or tag team. These are unforgettable highlights of the sport's greatest stars, compiled by the largest staff of editors and photographers in wrestling journalism

RICK RUDE

THE DANCING, PREENING, full-of-himself character that is Rick Rude actually began his career as a serious, hard-working athlete. He was employed as a bouncer in his native Minnesota when he was introduced to promoter Eddie Sharkey, who was impressed with Rude's success in arm-wrestling competitions.

After undergoing Sharkey's six-month training program, Rude made his debut in Canada in 1983. A tour there was followed by a trip to the Mid-Atlantic area, where he was injured and put out of action for four months by then-NWA World tag team champions Sgt. Slaughter and Don Kernodle.

When Rude came back, he went to Georgia, where he started making a name for himself on **World Championship Wrestling**. *Upon moving to the Mid-Southern area, he took Jimmy Hart as his manager. Hart teamed Rude with King Kong Bundy, and the duo won the Mid-Southern tag team title. But Rude became dissatisfied and feuded violently with Hart and Bundy, regaining the fans' support.*

But Rude found that he couldn't stay away from Hart's money and he rejoined the manager. Like many wrestlers who have competed in Memphis, Rude battled Jerry Lawler many times. Even with a valet, Angel, in his corner, Rude was unable to dethrone "The King," so he traveled to Florida and signed with Percy Pringle. As a member of the "Pringle Dynasty," Rude won the Southern title from Pez Whatley.

Rick Rude disrobes for the crowd, revealing a well-toned physique—and tights no one else would wear!

Six days after losing the belt to B. Brian Blair, Rude and Jesse Barr defeated Mark and Jay Youngblood to win the Florida version of the U.S. tag title. Rude's second Southern reign began on July 21, 1985, when he beat Mike Graham in Orlando. After losing to Graham, Rude and Pringle moved on to World Class.

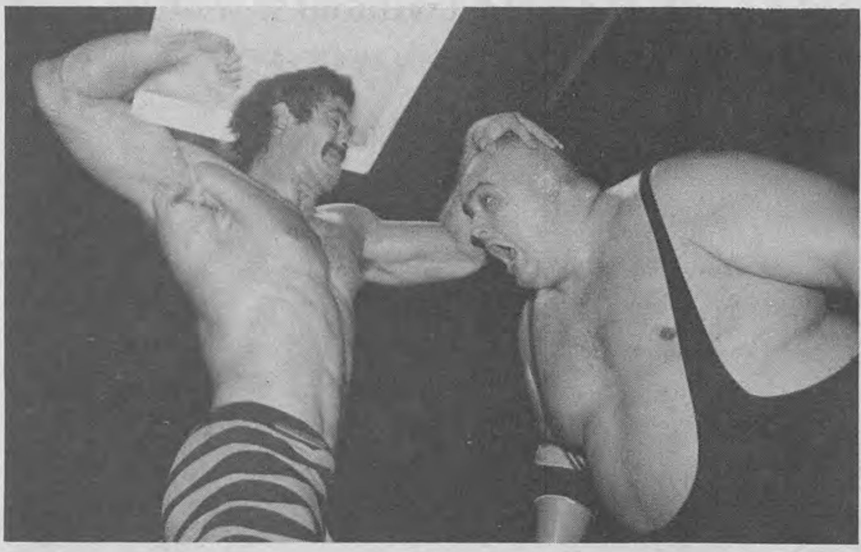
On November 4, 1985, Rude won the World Class American title from Iceman Parsons. During his eight months as champion, World Class seceded from the NWA and made the American belt the World Class title. A second valet, Raven, served as inspiration for "The Ravishing One," but he dumped her and Pringle when he lost the World Class belt to Chris Adams.

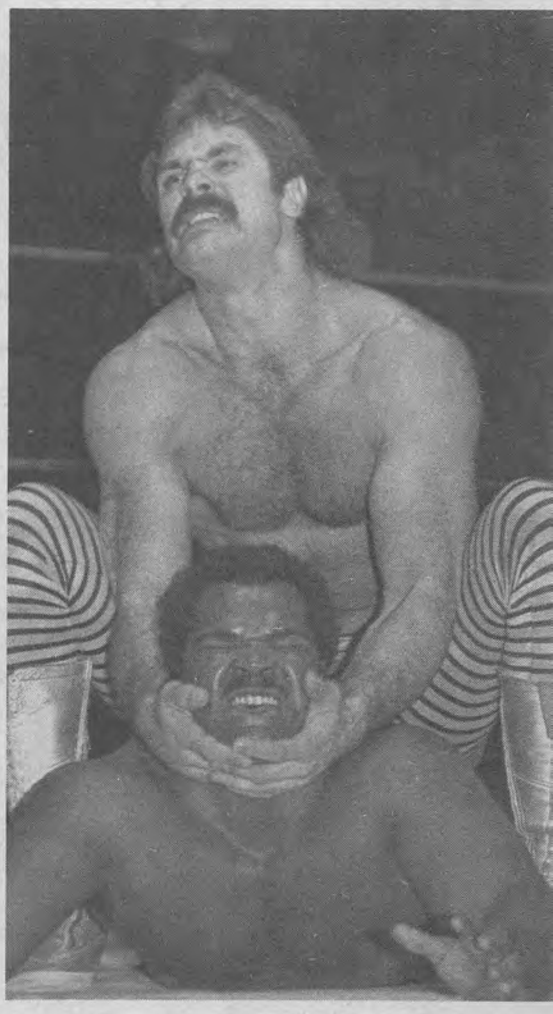
Rude's next stop was the NWA, where manager Paul Jones teamed him with Manny Fernandez. A challenge to The Rock 'n' Roll Express brought them the NWA World tag title on December 6, 1986. "Ravishin' and Ragin'" defended the belts for six months until the Rock 'n' Rolls regained the title in May 1987. Feeling he could do no more with Jones, Rude went to the WWF.

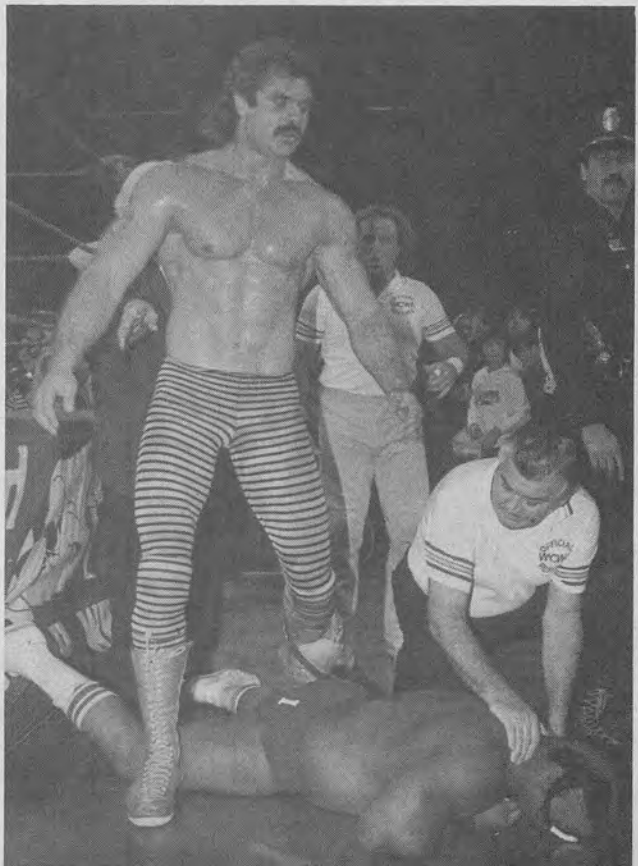
Under Bobby Heenan's guidance, Rude's obnoxious side came to the fore. He started wearing provocative tights and kissing women from the crowd. But his antics got him in trouble when he chose to unleash his "charms" on Cheryl Roberts, wife of Jake "The Snake" Roberts.

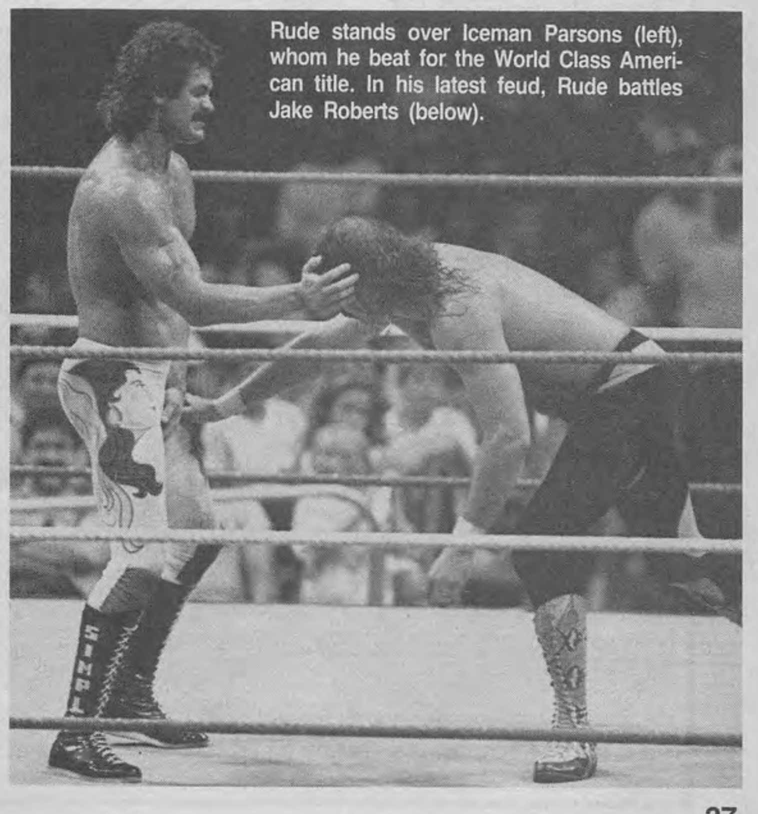
As the Rude-Roberts feud rages on, **The Wrestler** *takes a look at the "Ravishing One's" short but colorful career.* □

Rude armbars Road Warrior Hawk (left). "The Ravishing One" unloads on his former partner King Kong Bundy (center left). Rude chinlocks Pez Whatley (below).





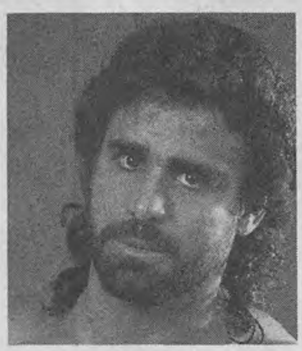




Rude stands over Iceman Parsons (left), whom he beat for the World Class American title. In his latest feud, Rude battles Jake Roberts (below).

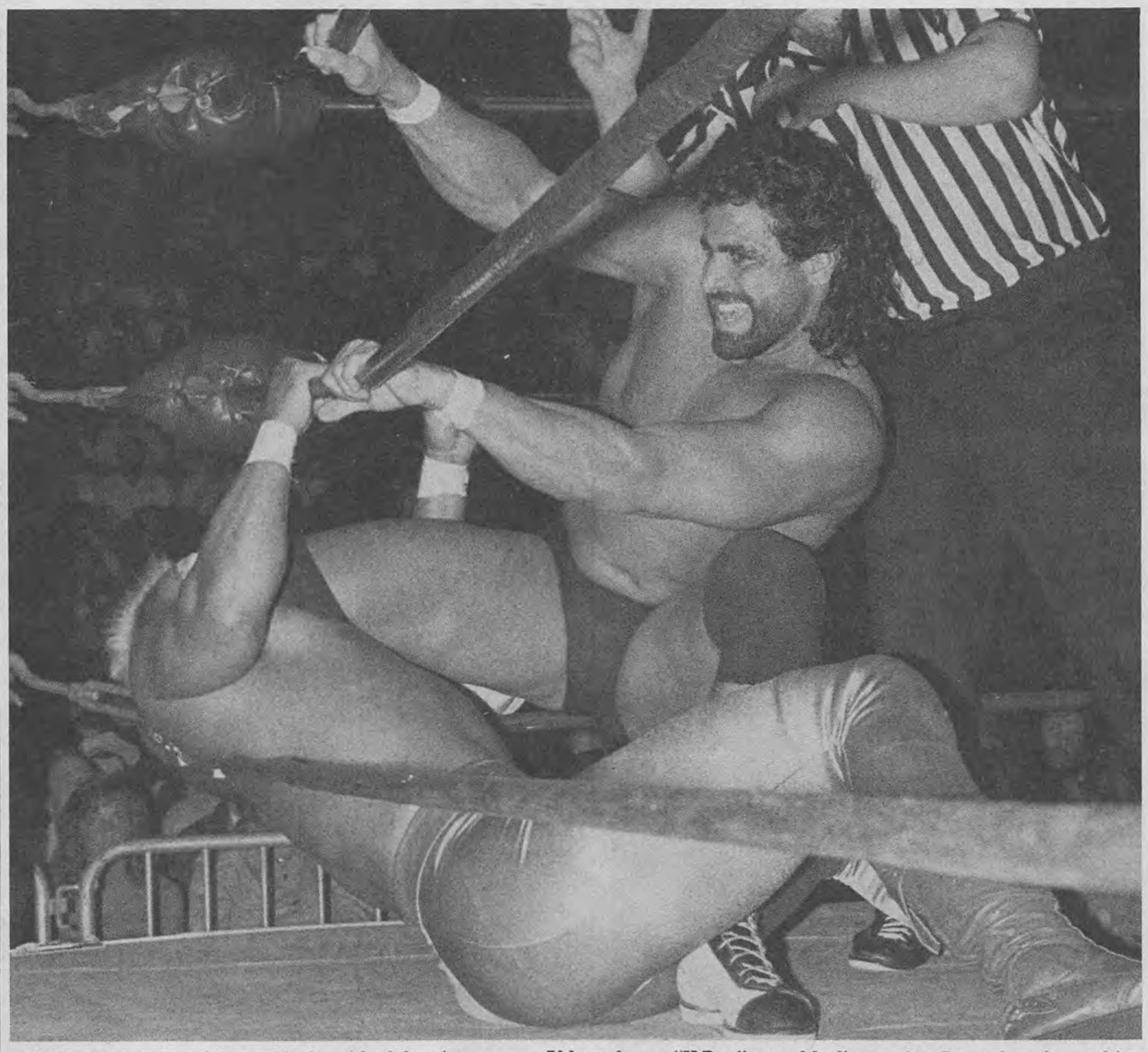
X-RAY

THE WRESTLER PANEL EXAMINES



AL PEREZ

Each month THE WRESTLER'S panel of experts will offer their candid opinions of one of wrestling's stars. Whether an up-and- coming youngster or an established superstar in his own right, our panel will always be frank and honest without fear of reprisal



Al Perez brutalizes Sting with the aid of the ring ropes. Although our "X-Ray" panel believes that Perez has the makings of a champion, most feel that he could rise even higher without the "advice" of manager Gary Hart.

CAPT. LOU ALBANO

"Man, what a package that Al Perez is! He's got speed, he's got strength, he's got technical wrestling knowledge, and he's got speed, daddy. I don't like the fact that he's been hanging around that gargoyle Gary Hart, but together they did manage to capture the World Class title. Now that he's in the NWA, it's just a matter of time before Perez wins a major championship, and you can quote the Captain on that one, baby, Perez is the real thing."

Capt. Lou Albano, long known as "The Guiding Light," has guided 13 tag teams to an unmatched 16 WWF World tag team titles.

KILLER KOWALSKI

"Usually I don't like wrestlers that could be considered pretty boys, but Perez is a naturally handsome man, and I can't fault him for flaunting it. I also can't blame him for choosing Gary Hart as his manager, because Gary has one of the superior minds in wrestling today. It's kind of a shame that Perez seems to be friends with Ric Flair, because in my eyes Perez is certainly world championship material. What a match a Flair-Perez bout would be!"

Killer Kowalski, one of the most sadistic rulebreakers in the sport's history, runs a wrestling school in Reading, Massachusetts.

PROF. TORU TANAKA

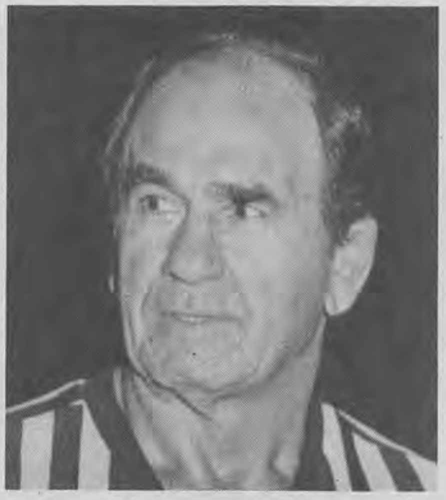
"Perez shows signs of becoming an important wrestler, but he's going to have to become more aggressive. He's defeated too many people in the NWA for too long without getting matches against the champions. While it is true that other honorable wrestlers such as Ric Flair and Barry Windham have the important singles belts, Perez should show backbone and request title bouts as soon as possible. He is too talented to be just a contender."

Prof. Tanaka, a three-time co-holder of the WWF World tag team title with Mr. Fuji, is currently a successful actor.

LARRY HENNIG

"Great talent, great attitude, great man. Perez is showing how today's best young stars are going to drive the grizzled likes of Dusty Rhodes right out of this business. I'd just love to see Perez slap that spinning toehold on one of Dusty's bad wheels. There would be one less so-called 'legend' around, and it would be about time. The best way for a young guy to establish himself is to cripple as many top stars as he can. It worked for me."

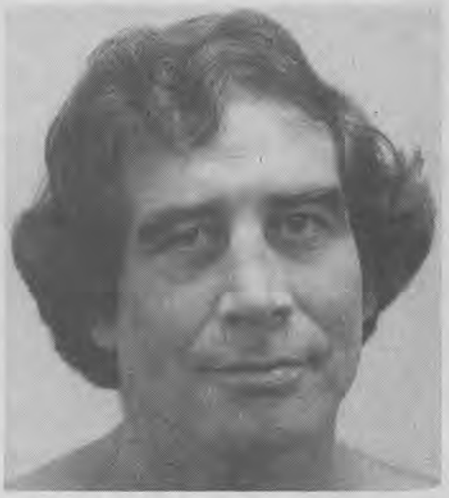
Larry "The Ax" Hennig is a four-time former AWA World tag team champion; he held three of those titles with Harley Race.



LOU THESZ

"There are few young stars that explode upon the national scene the way Perez has. He's a very good scientific wrestler already, but I'm afraid his skills may stagnate if he continues to be advised by Gary Hart. Anybody can win a title by cheating, but it takes winning with honor to truly make a name for yourself among your peers. He's been in the NWA for a long time now, but he has yet to win a belt under Hart. Perhaps he'll soon see the error of his ways."

Lou Thesz held the NWA World title six times during his fabulous 50-year career. Many consider him the greatest all-round wrestler in history.



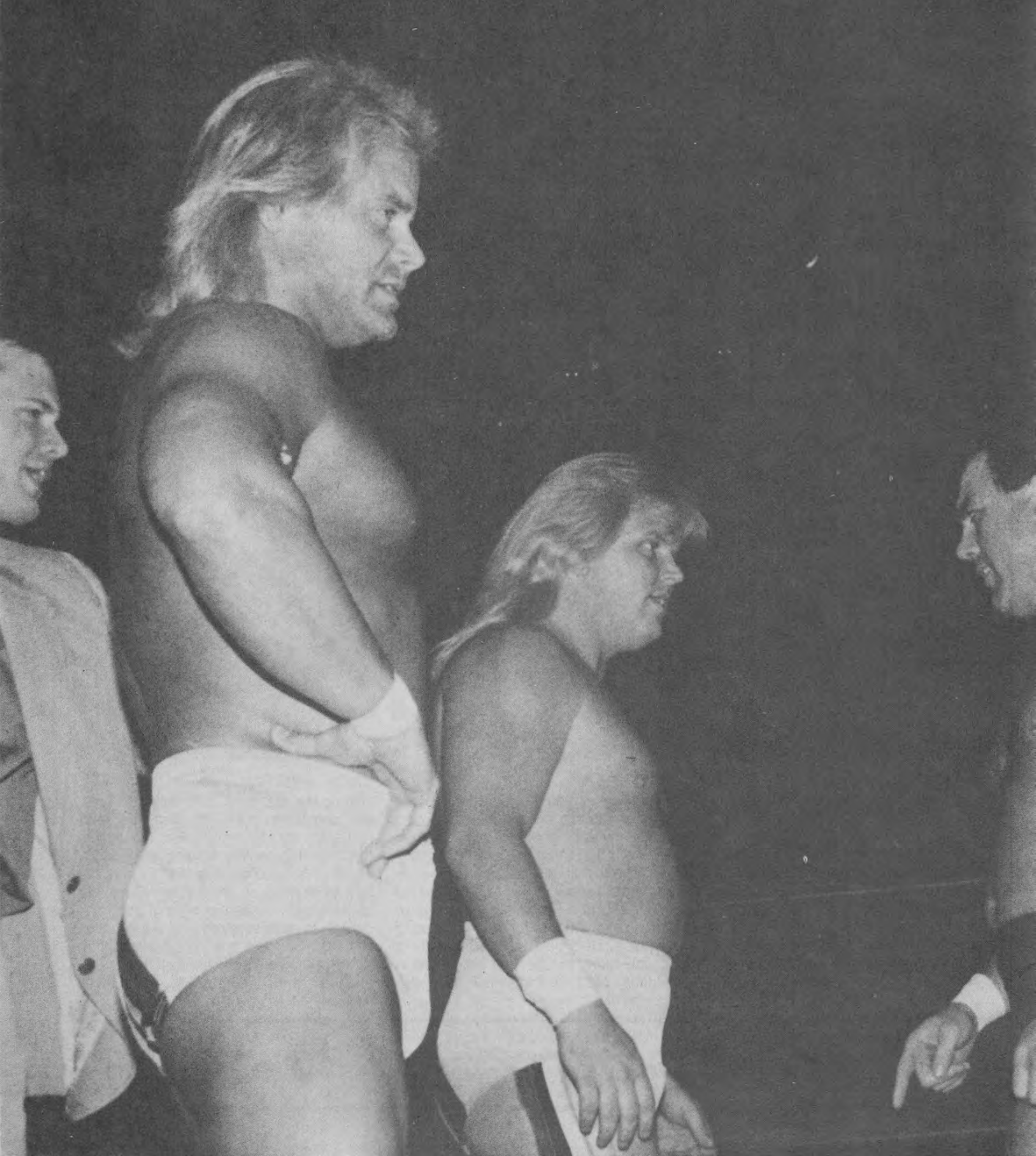
JACK BRISCO

"Perez has as much pure talent as anyone competing right now, but I've seen him stoop to some pretty low tactics just to gain a momentary advantage during a match. He actually appears to have a lack of confidence. His spinning toehold is the best I've seen in a long time, and he can match strength and speed with anybody. But he's got to gain confidence in his own *wrestling* ability before the rest of the world begins to take him seriously." □

Jack Brisco is a two-time former NWA World champion, and a three-time former NWA World tag team champion with brother Jerry.

THE MATCH THE FANS

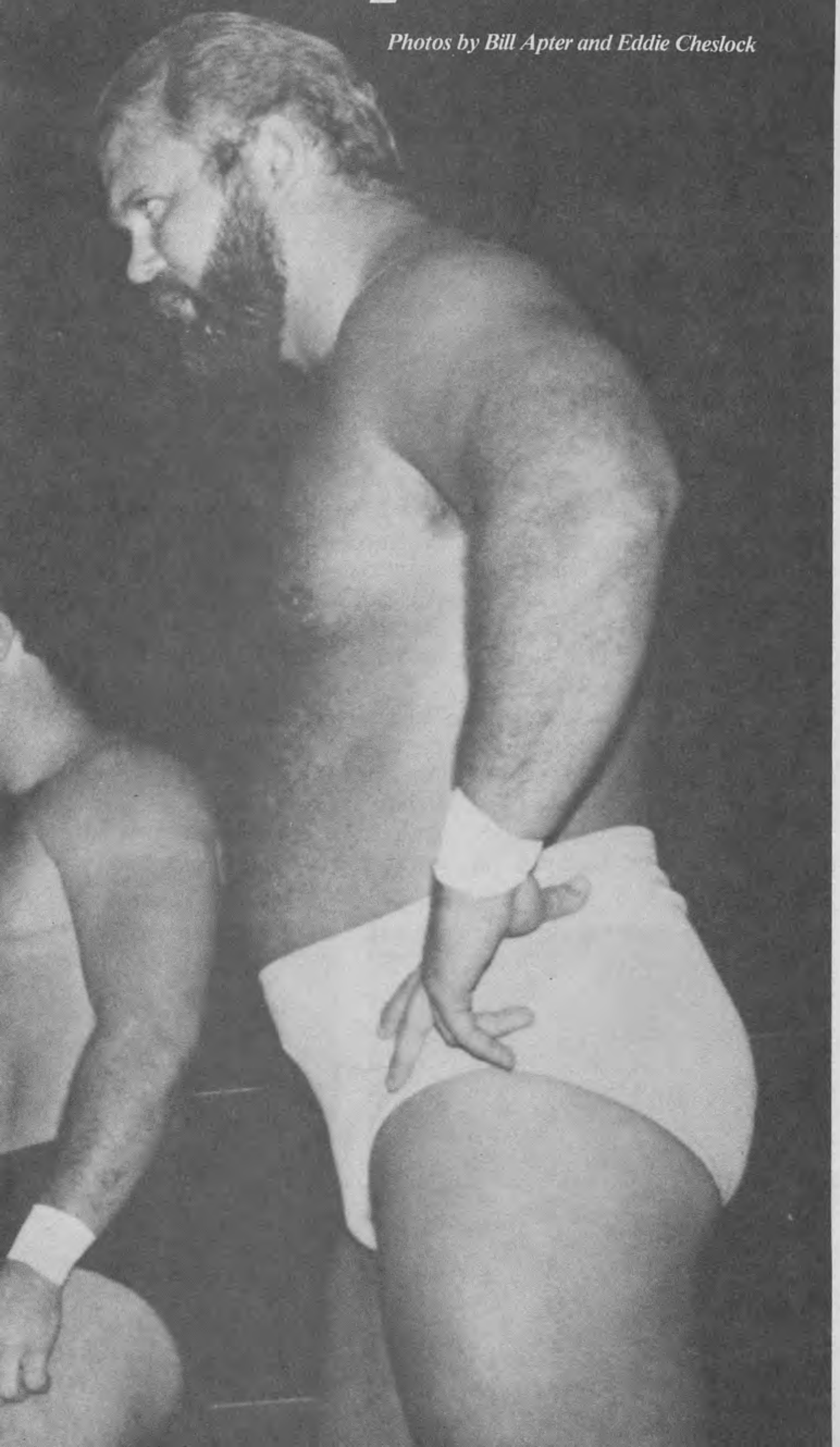
The Midnight Express



LOVE TO HATE

vs. Tully & Arn

Photos by Bill Apter and Eddie Cheslock



Nothing leaves fans more disoriented than seeing two teams they hate battling each other. But that's exactly what's happening as Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson face off against The Midnight Express. No matter which team wins, fans should be happy. If only it were that simple!

THE NWA OFFICIALS can't believe it. The referees don't know how to control it. The fans don't know what to make of it. And the biggest problem with it is deciding which side to root for!

As the war continues between NWA World tag team champions Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson and U.S. tag team titleholders The Midnight Express, fans around the country are facing the same dilemma: by rooting against one team, they are inevitably forced to cheer for a team they hate.

This isn't necessarily an *unenjoyable* dilemma. When else can fans get to watch two teams they hate beat each other to a pulp? It would seem, therefore, that the best course of action for most fans would be to simply sit back and enjoy.

But detractors of The Four Horsemen and The Midnight Express are finding it difficult to do just that. Months of senseless brutality have conditioned fans to hate both teams equally. When these rulebreaking teams compete against each other, fans are left with the same disoriented felling one gets after stepping off a carnival Tilt-A-Whirl: Your brain's still spinning, even though the ride has

(Continued on page 60)

SUPERSTARS OF A SUPER SUMMER

The Great American Bash! WrestleFest! The Kerry Von Erich-Jerry Lawler title vs. title war! They all combined to make wrestling's 1988 summer season one of the most memorable ever!

THE SUMMER OF '88. It was hot, sticky, uncomfortable, and virtually unendurable—unless you're a wrestling fan. Because for two full months, the best way to beat the heat was to buy a ticket to a wrestling match, sit back with a cold drink, and watch the greatest wrestling stars in the world engage in some of the fiercest mat action ever.

The Great American Bash, WrestleFest, and the Kerry Von Erich-Jerry Lawler title vs. title war made this a special summer for all fans. And the oppressive weather conditions, combined with the intense match schedules, made summer 1988 the ultimate test of a champion.

Those who survived are "The Superstars of a Super Summer." On the following pages, we've examined the top cards conducted by the NWA, WWF, and AWA during July and August, cutting through the hype to put summer 1988 in perspective.

THE GREAT AMERICAN BASH, the NWA's annual series of cards throughout the country, started on June 26 in Orlando, Florida, and ended 43 days and 45 cities later on August 7 in Kansas City, Missouri.

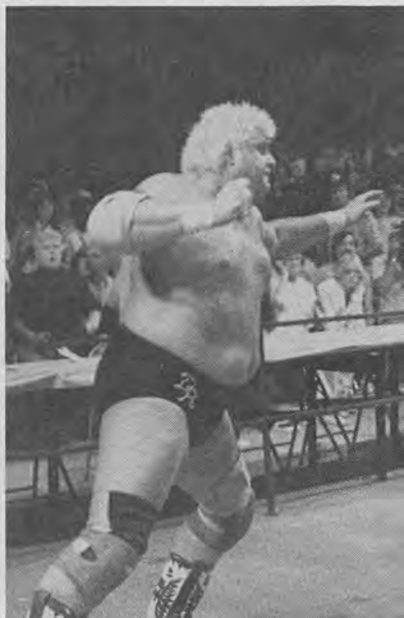
There were two title changes over the course of the Bash: Dusty Rhodes and The Road Warriors won the six-man tag belts from Ric Flair, Tully Blanchard, and Arn Anderson, on July 9 in Chicago; and The Midnight Express won the U.S. tag belts from The Fantastics on July 10 in Baltimore. But those were only two of the highlights of a summer packed with action, controversy, and intrigue.

Before a nationwide pay-per-view TV audience, Lex Luger appeared to have made World champion Ric Flair submit to a backbreaker on July 10 in Baltimore. Moments later, however, the world learned that an official from the Maryland State Athletic Commission had stopped the match because Luger was bleeding from the forehead.

It was a difficult summer for Rhodes, who lost two friends in 21 days. At the Baltimore Bash, "The American Dream" was attacked by Ronnie Garvin during a match against U.S. champion Barry Windham. On July 31 in Detroit, Rhodes

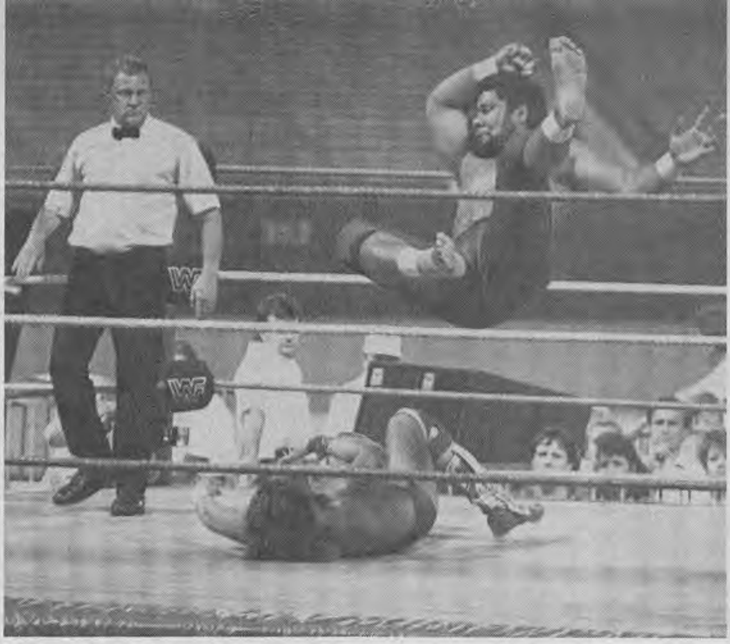
Al Perez vs. Nikita Koloff

Sting vs. Ric Flair



Dusty Rhodes vs. Barry Windham

Midnight Express vs. Fantastics



King Haku vs. Sam Houston

Ultimate Warrior vs. Bobby Heenan

was beaten up by The Sheik after they defeated Kevin Sullivan and Dick Murdoch in a cage match. Murdoch, however, came to Rhodes' rescue and "The Outlaws" were reunited.

War Games continued and, once again, The Four Horsemen were losers. Several matches had similar results: Combinations of Dusty Rhodes, Lex Luger, Nikita Koloff, Steve Williams, The Road Warriors, and Paul Ellering scored decisive victories over the Horsemen and J.J. Dillon.

With the help of Road Warrior Hawk, Jimmy Garvin rescued his wife and manager Precious from Kevin Sullivan after a "Tower of Doom" match in Baltimore. Seven days later, in Charleston, West Virginia, Garvin defeated Sullivan in a Prince, of Darkness match.

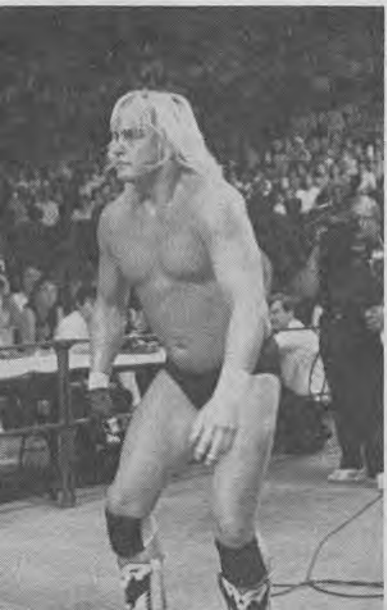
There was one disappointing aspect of The Great American Bash: Flair defended his World title only once. But this made the anticipation even greater for a series of Luger-Flair rematches that began after the Bash. The Bash also sparked The Midnight Express vs. Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson feud that is now going strong.

●

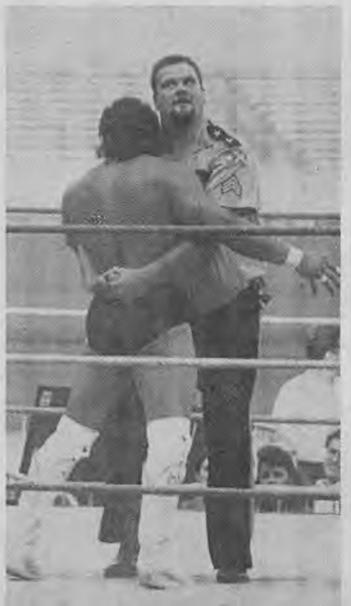
WRESTLEFEST was conducted by the World Wrestling Federation on July 31 in Milwaukee County Stadium. A crowd of over 27,000 fans attended the 15-match outdoor card, which featured former WWF World champion Hulk Hogan's return from a three-month layoff.

WrestleFest will be remembered for several important matches. The Honky Tonk Man took a break from his series of Intercontinental title defenses against Brutus Beefcake to face Hacksaw Duggan; Honky Tonk was disqualified for outside interference by Jimmy Hart. Fresh from the NWA, The Powers of Pain destroyed The Bolsheviks. Former AWA World champion Curt Hennig made his WWF return and pinned another newcomer, Terry Taylor.

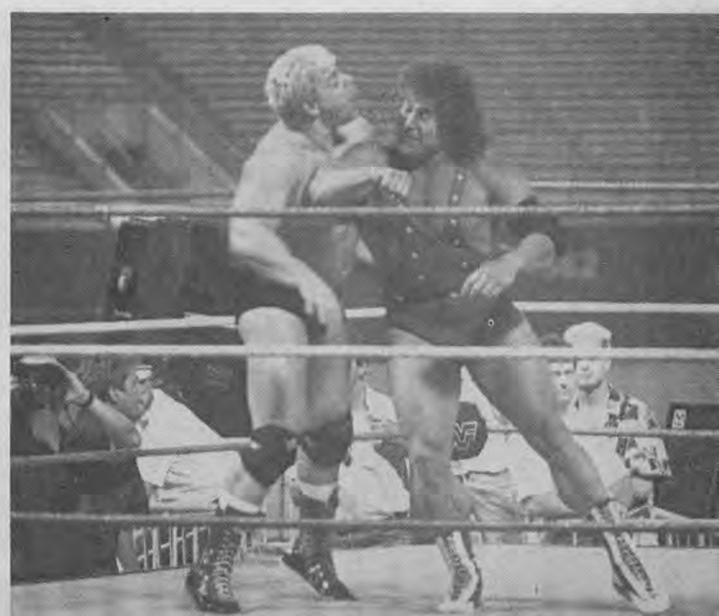
Ted DiBiase received another shot at World champion Randy Savage, but fell short once again. Savage reversed a small package for the pin, but DiBiase argued that his shoulders were up when the count was made. DiBiase and Virgil proceeded to beat up Savage, who

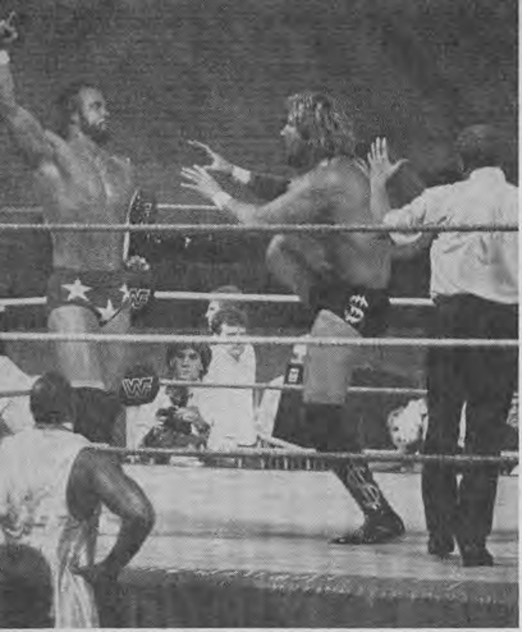


Big Bossman vs. Scott Casey



Ken Patera vs. Dino Bravo





Randy Savage vs. Ted DiBiase

Curt Hennig vs. Terry Taylor

Andre the Giant vs. Hulk Hogan

battled back with a chair and cleared the ring.

Prior to the main event, Hogan, looking better than ever, was greeted by a standing ovation when he made his way to the steel cage. Once inside, Hogan held off a furious assault by Andre and, after seven minutes of action, climbed over the cage to win the match. "The Hulkster" was back, and the Hulkamaniacs were in their glory!

●

TITLE VS. TITLE matches are rare in professional wrestling. And it's even more unusual to see a world champion defend his belt against wrestlers and champions from other federations. But that's what Jerry Lawler has done since winning the AWA World title from Curt Hennig on May 9 in Memphis.

Lawler's most spectacular title defenses have been against World Class champion Kerry Von Erich. It all started in June when Von Erich appeared on TV and said that his title was more important than Lawler's. Lawler accepted the challenge.

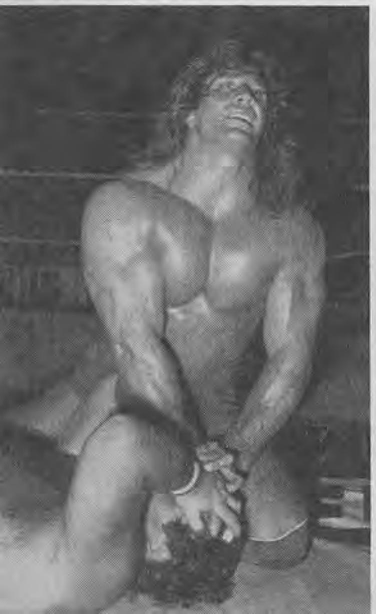
They've met several times since then, but none of the bouts have ended in a decisive pinfall. Their most controversial match took place on August 15 in Memphis. Two referees, Jerry Calhoun and Frank Morell, were injured during the match, forcing CWA matchmaker Eddie Marlin to name wrestler Billy Travis as the substitute. Minutes later, Lawler covered Kerry for the pin, but Von Erich put his foot on the ropes at the two-count. Travis did not see this and continued the count. Lawler won the match and was awarded the World Class title.

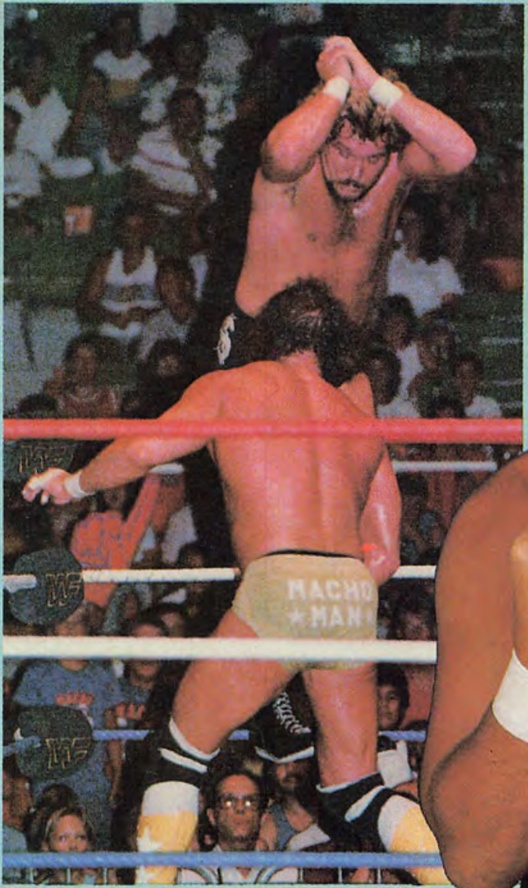
The intensity of the feud, however, apparently had not changed either of these men. Lawler, in sportsmanlike fashion, returned the World Class belt to Kerry after viewing a tape of the match.

"For him to do that proves what kind of man he really is," Kerry said gratefully. "I couldn't believe it. But then again, it's been that kind of summer." □

The photographers for this special section were: Bill Apter, Roy London, Len McAlister, Floyd See, Brad McFarlin, David Fitzgerald, Peter Rene, Sam Lowe, Scott George, Eddie Cheslock, Brent Cook, and Duane Long.

The Lawler-Von Erich title vs. title series



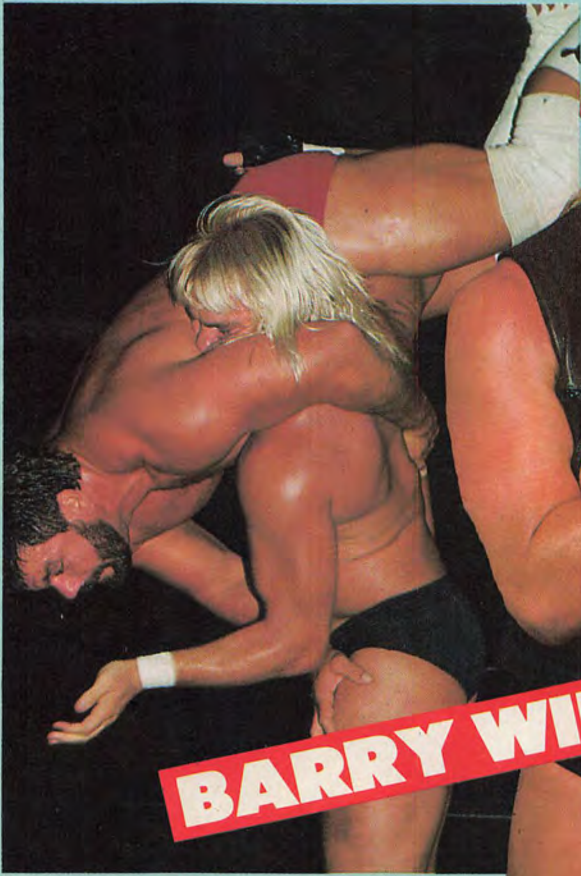


Detroit: DiBiase targets Randy Savage for an elbowsmash off the ropes.

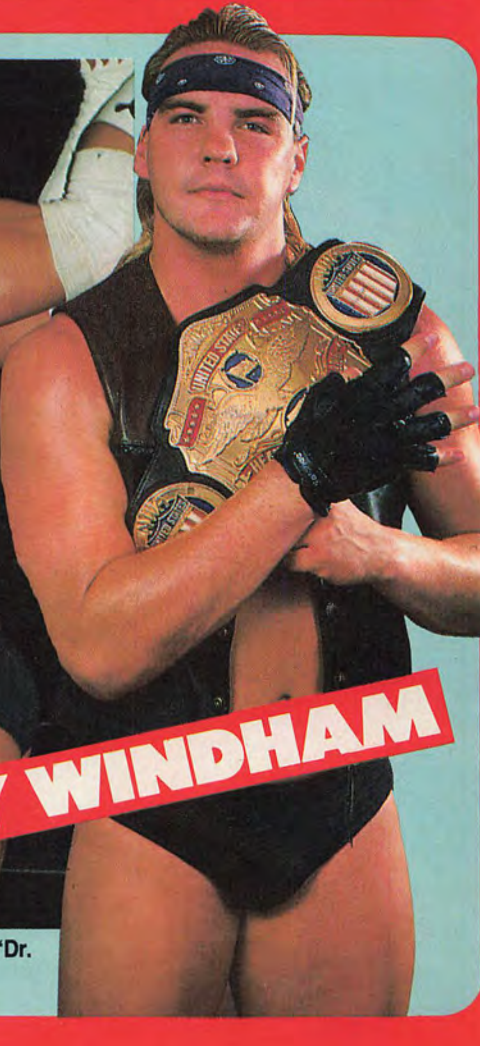
TED DiBIASE

Toronto: When Virgil is trapped by Savage, "The Million-Dollar Man" comes to his rescue.

Charlotte, NC: Windham slaps the claw on his former mentor and current enemy, Dusty Rhodes.

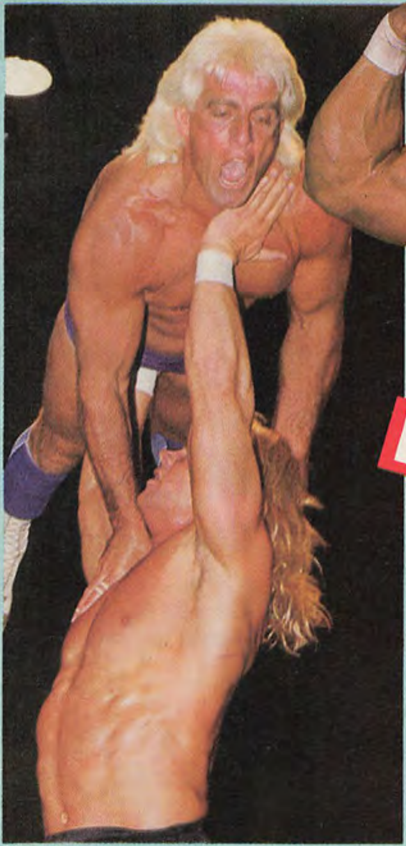


Richmond, VA: Windham slams Steve "Dr. Death" Williams, another former friend.



BARRY WINDHAM

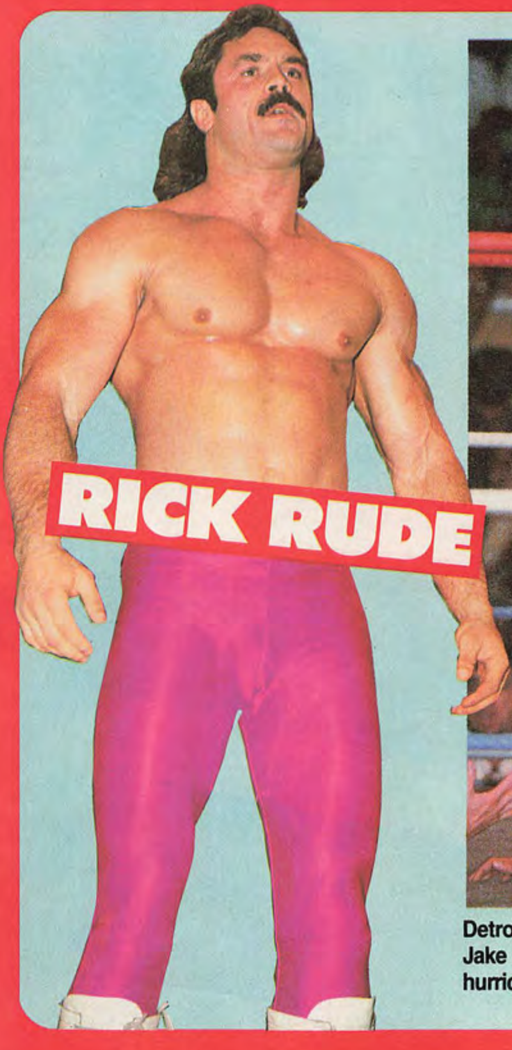
LEX LUGER

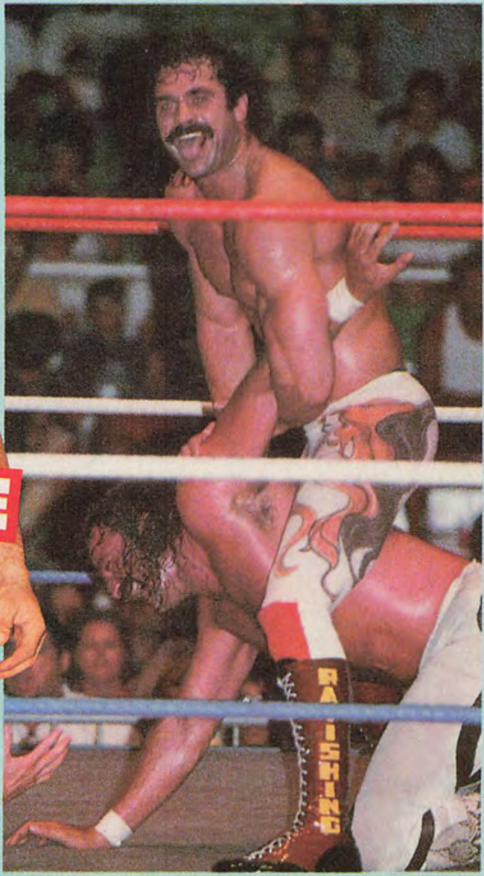


Houston: Luger presses Ric Flair. "The Total Package" has Flair on the run.

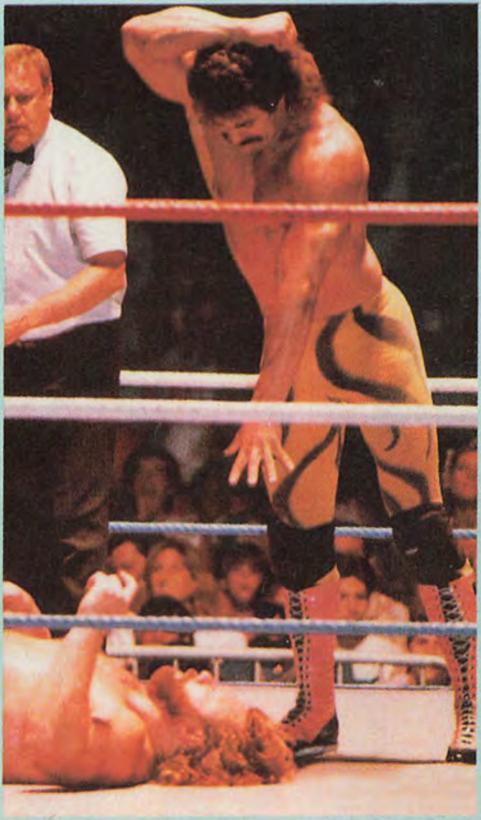
Macon, GA: Lex Luger appears satisfied as he thwarts Barry Windham's attempt to leave the cage.

RICK RUDE

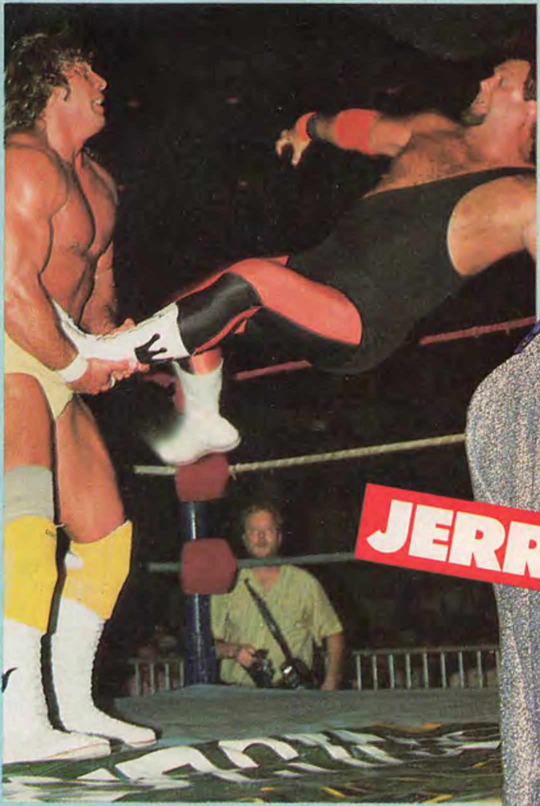




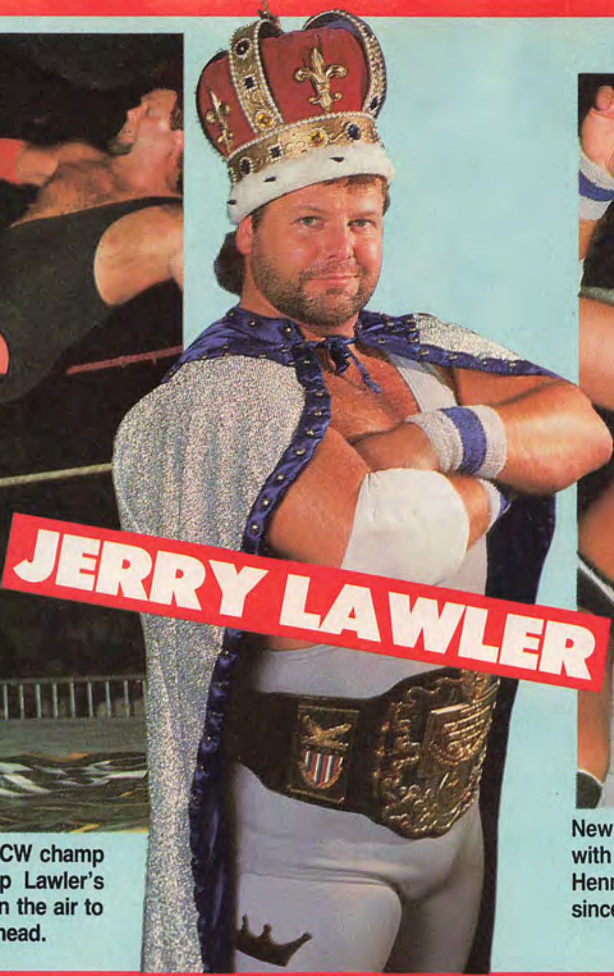
Detroit: Rude armlocks his most bitter opponent, Jake "The Snake" Roberts. At the eye of the hurricane is Jake's lovely wife, Cheryl.



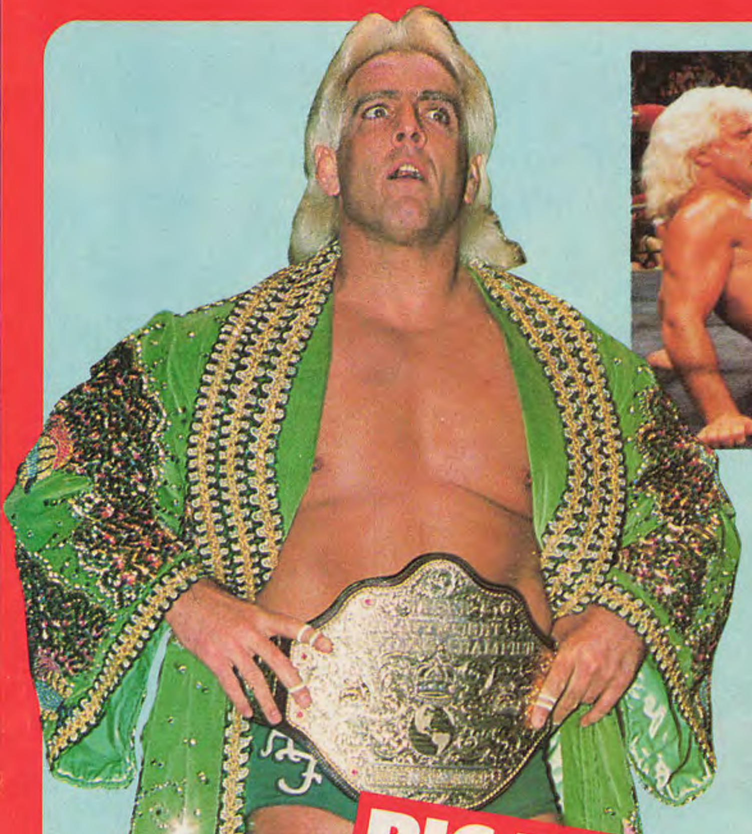
Detroit: The self-proclaimed "Ravishing One" pounds on Hacksaw Duggan. Rude's arrogance is never more evident than when he kisses a woman from the crowd.



Memphis: In a title vs. title bout, WCCW champ Kerry Von Erich holds AWA champ Lawler's foot, but "The King" hoists himself in the air to kick Von Erich in the back of the head.



New Haven, CT: Curt Hennig chokes Lawler with an illegal object. Lawler won the title from Hennig in his hometown of Memphis, and has since defended the belt in many areas.



Baltimore: Flair applies the figure-four leglock on Lex Luger. This match was one of the most controversial of the year.

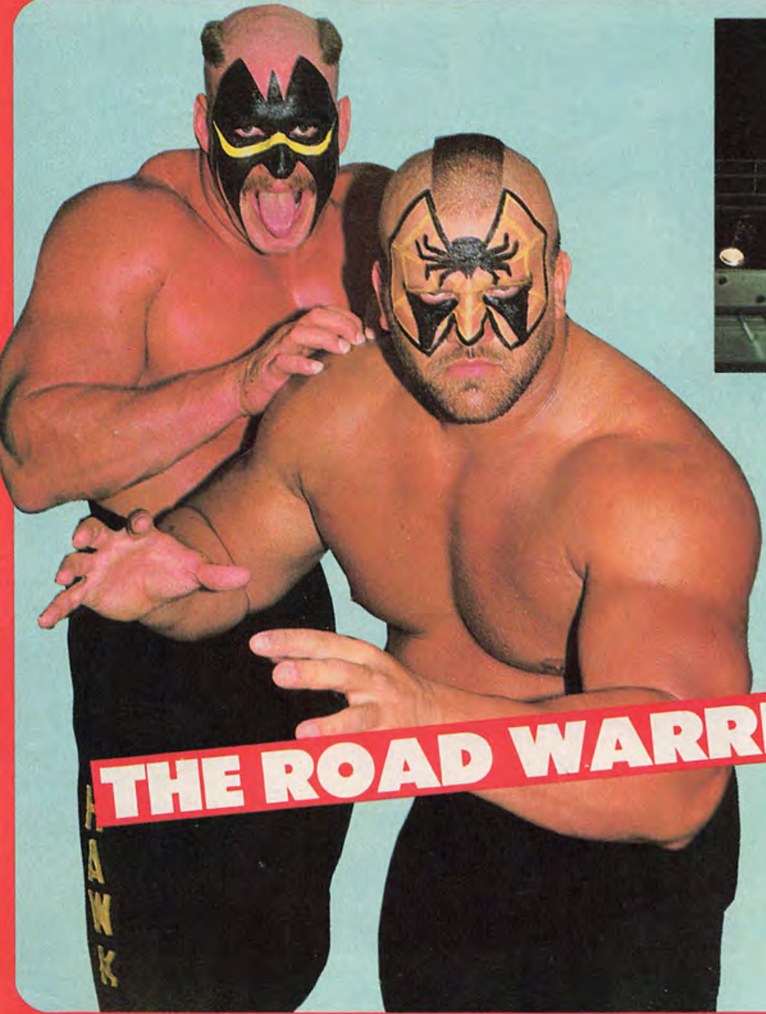
Houston: Barry Windham is unable to help Flair fend off an attack by Nikita Koloff, another voracious title contender.

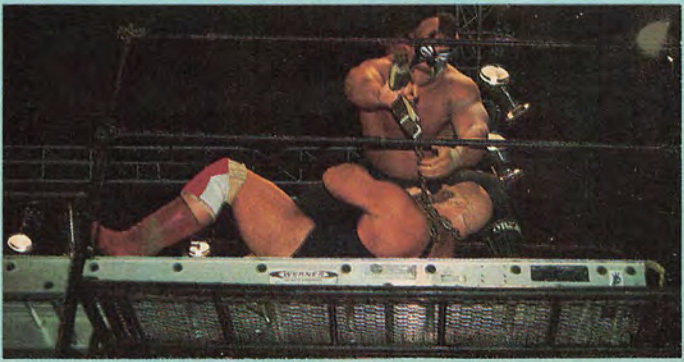
HULK HOGAN

Milwaukee: Andre the Giant shoves Hogan into the turnbuckle during their cage battle.

Milwaukee: "The Hulkster" pummels out of a Giant bearhug on his way to a victory.

THE ROAD WARRIORS



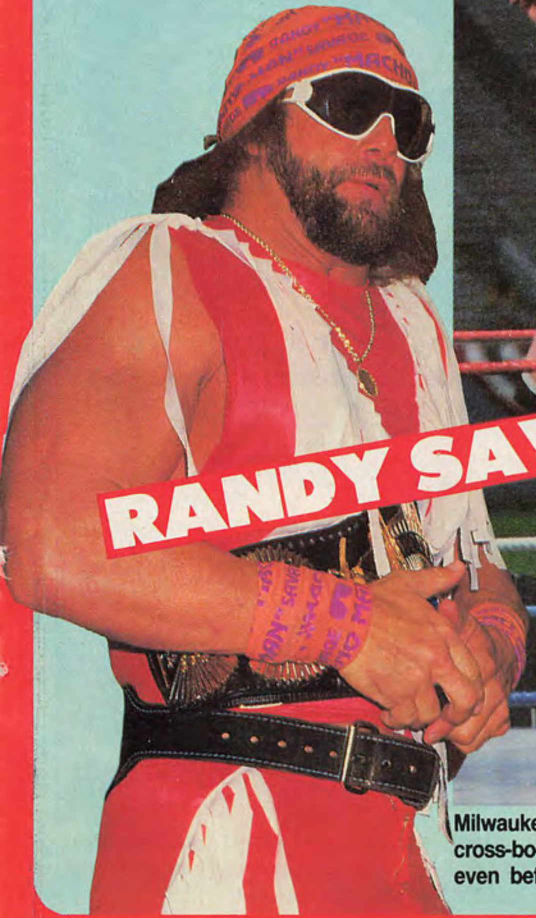


Macon, GA: Animal chokes Ivan Koloff with a chain up on the scaffold, the site of many Warrior victories.

Los Angeles: Hawk boots Rick Steiner in the chest. The Warriors despise Kevin Sullivan and his men.

Miami: Sting puts the abdominal stretch on Arn Anderson. Sting has tried several partners in his quest for Arn and Tully Blanchard's NWA tag title.

Greensboro, NC: "The Stinger," one of the most popular athletes in the sport, traps Blanchard in a scorpion leglock.

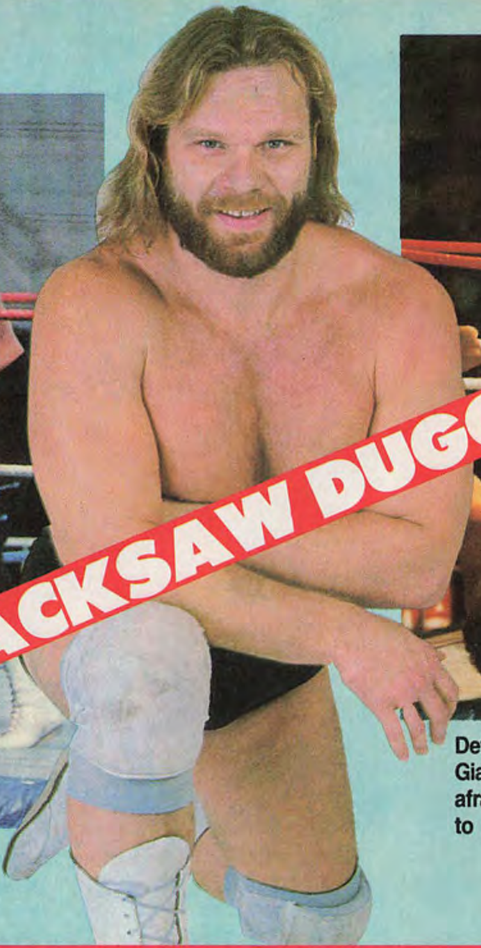


Milwaukee: Savage hits Ted DiBiase with a cross-bodyblock. Their feud was going on even before Savage won the title.

Detroit: "The Macho Man" blocks DiBiase's boot to the midsection. Savage's alliance with Hulk Hogan increases DiBiase's hatred for his opponent.

HACKSAW DUGGAN

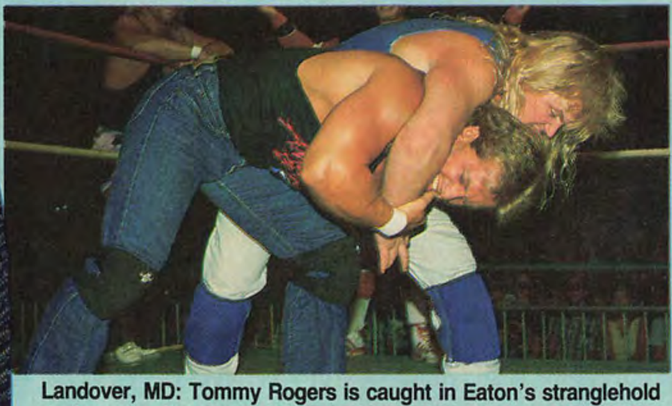
Milwaukee: The Honky Tonk Man braces himself for Duggan's powerful right hand during their battle at WrestleFest.



Detroit: Duggan mashes his boot into Andre the Giant's face. Hacksaw has always said he's not afraid of Andre's size, and he has his trusty 2x4 to back him up.

THE FANTASTICS

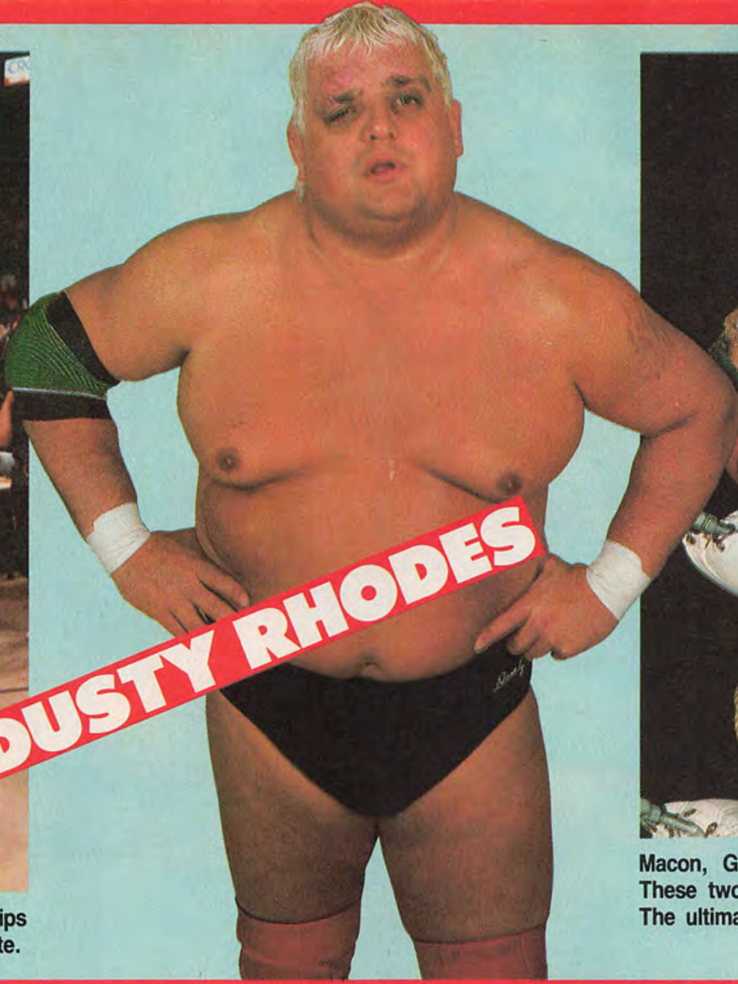
Baltimore: The Fantastics backdrop Bobby Eaton. Eaton, Stan Lane, and their manager Jim Cornette always know The Fantastics pose a tough challenge.



Landover, MD: Tommy Rogers is caught in Eaton's stranglehold during a bunkhouse match. The Fantastics hunger to regain the U.S. belts they lost to The Midnight Express.

DUSTY RHODES

Baltimore: Dusty Rhodes backflips Barry Windham on the concrete.

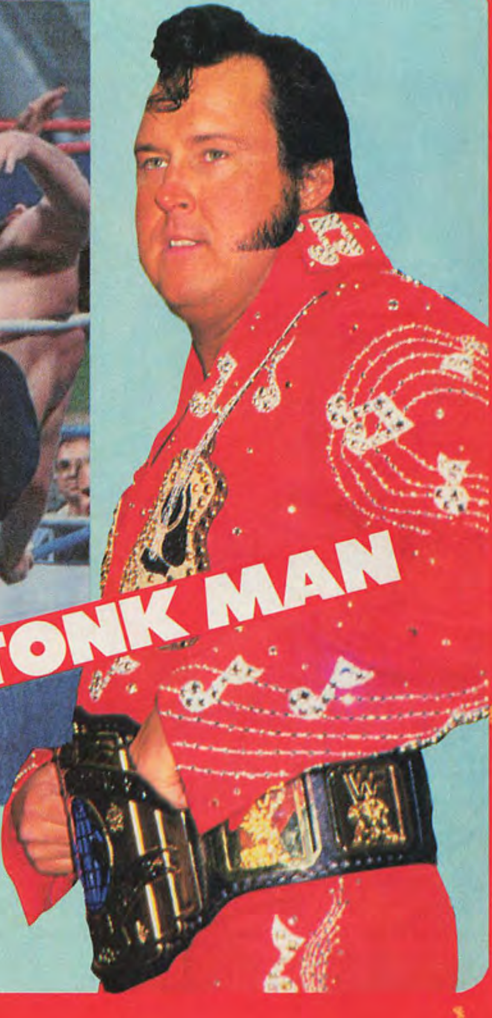


Macon, GA: Dusty digs into Tully Blanchard. These two have been battling it out for years. The ultimate winner may never be decided.

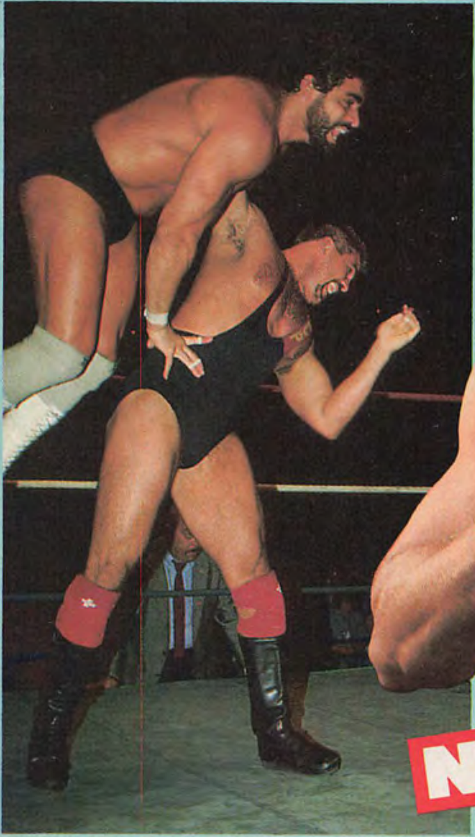
THE HONKY TONK MAN

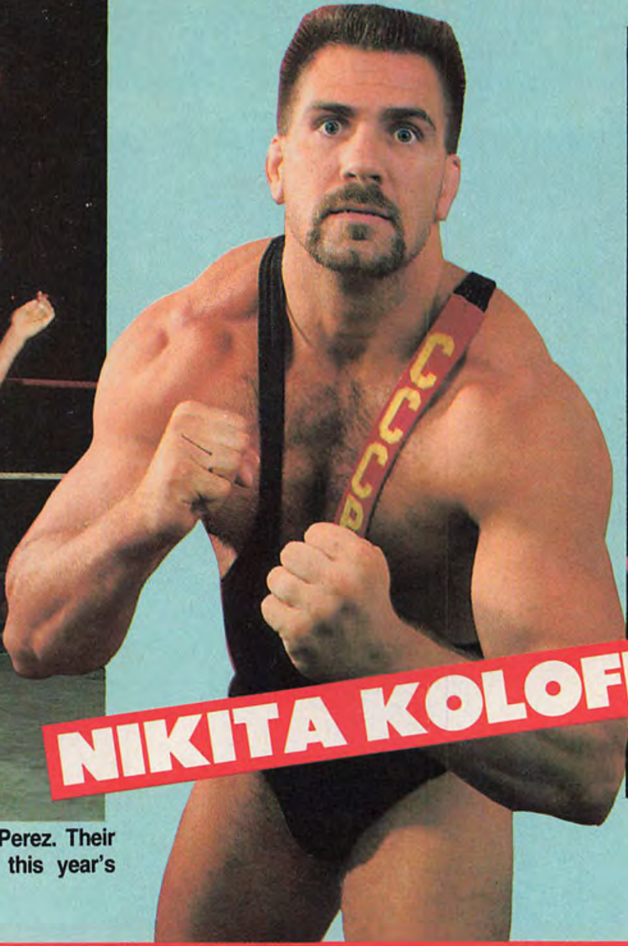
Detroit: Honky Tonk armbars Brutus Beefcake. Brutus would like nothing more than to cut off a lock of Honky's slicked-back hair.

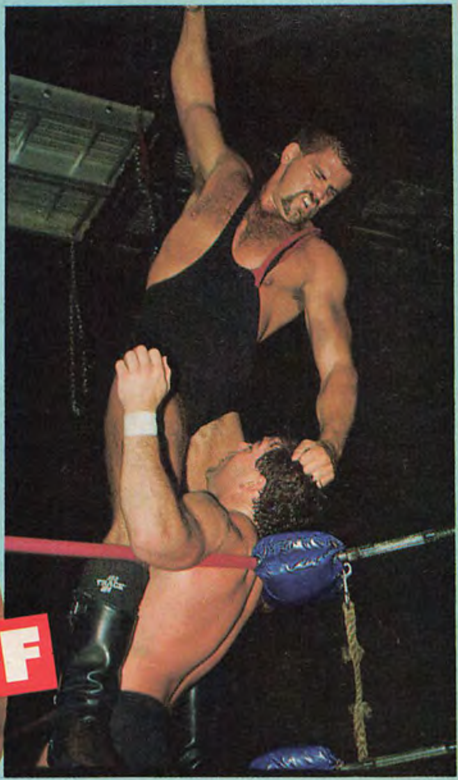
Milwaukee: Honky shoves Hacksaw Duggan out of the ring. Honky's long title reign has surprised everyone but himself.



NIKITA KOLOFF



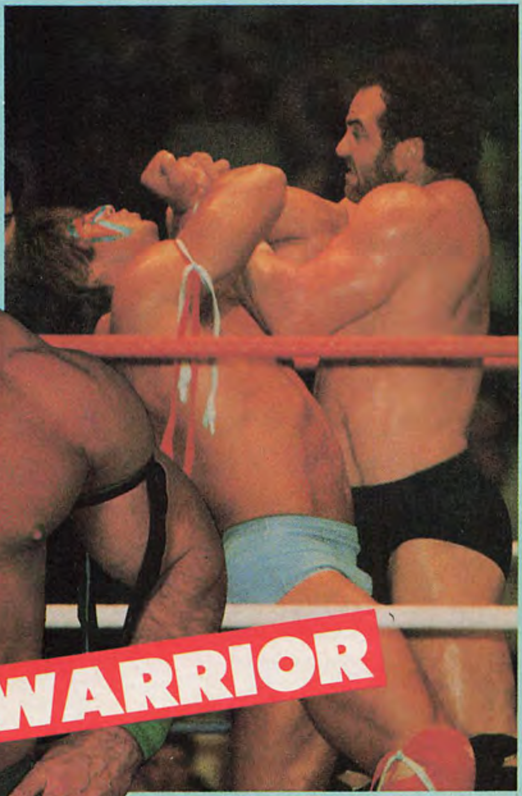




Greensboro, NC: Nikita hiptosses Al Perez. Their war was one of the highlights of this year's Great American Bash.

Roanoke, VA: Nikita pummels Tully Blanchard. The Russian is a longtime enemy of Blanchard and the other Horsemen. Nikita is a contender for all their belts.

ULTIMATE WARRIOR



Milwaukee: The Ultimate Warrior celebrates before trying to stuff Bobby Heenan into a weasel suit. The Warrior has recently been gaining a lot of very important victories.

Detroit: Hercules gets a temporary advantage on the Warrior. Few in wrestling can match the Warrior's outstanding physique.

MEGABUCKS VS. MEGAPOWERS

Hogan, Elizabeth, & Savage Triumphant!

THE LOVELY ELIZABETH is wrestling's all-American dream girl. Pure and innocent, she's a vision of loveliness; a girl that all men would love to bring home to mom; a woman that other women respect for her poise, intelligence, and trend-setting taste in fashion. She, more than any other person, transformed Randy Savage from a ruthless beast into one of the most popular men in wrestling.

Certainly, she *has* done a lot for the "Macho Man." Several times when Savage has been in trouble, Elizabeth has run for help; each time, Hulk Hogan has come to the rescue. And she was largely reponsible for bringing together Savage and Hogan and forming "The Megapowers." It is well known that Elizabeth will do anything for Savage.

She'll even take off her clothes in front of over 23,000 fans in Madison

Randy Savage and Hulk Hogan took on Ted DiBiase and Andre the Giant in the main event of SummerSlam '88 at Madison Square Garden. But it was Elizabeth who stole the show—and won the match for her team in startling fashion!

Square Garden and hundreds of thousands more fans watching at home on nationwide pay-per-view television.

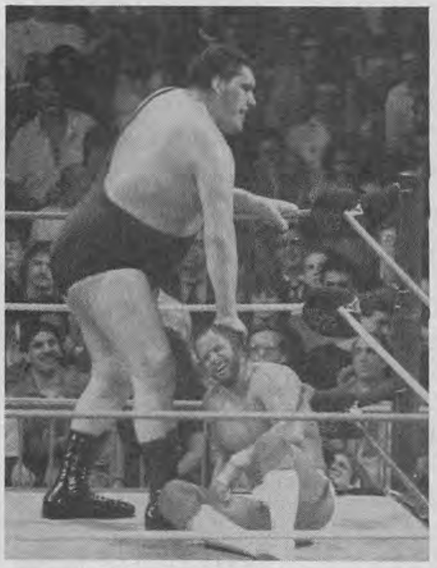
The conclusion to SummerSlam '88 on August 29 remains startling, even though Hogan hinted for weeks prior to the Megapowers vs. Megabucks match that Elizabeth, wearing an "itsy-bitsy, teenie-weenie, yellow polkadot bikini," would be his team's secret weapon. And although the bikini never materialized, who really expected sweet Elizabeth to drop her skirt for all the world to see?

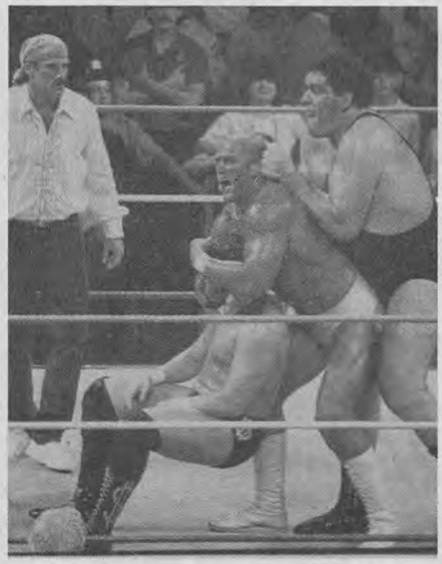
Certainly, the collective heartbeat of male America quickened as she stood on the ring apron in a pair of canary-yellow high-heels and opaque stockings, the lower half of her shocking-red one-piece bathing suit exposed. She kept her top on, but there was really no need to go any further. The scantily clad Elizabeth had successfully altered the course of the match.

As this point, it seemed as if time had been suspended. There was slightly over 13 minutes gone in the match and the Megapowers were in trouble. Following a two-on-two brawl, Andre booted Savage out of the ring and DiBiase tossed Hogan through the ropes to the arena floor. Andre and DiBiase stood joyfully in the middle of the ring while Ventura made the count. All of a sudden, Elizabeth climbed on the ring apron.

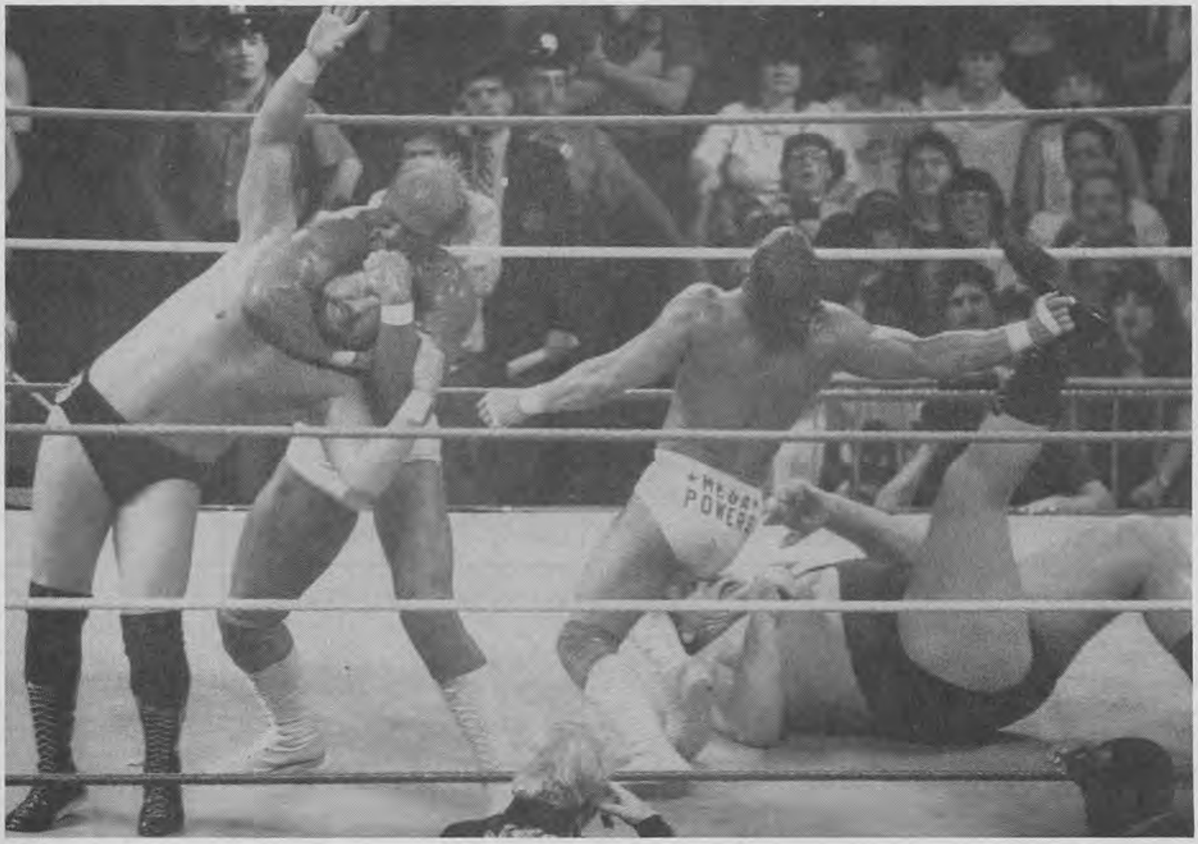
Jesse ordered her down, but Elizabeth refused to budge. Meanwhile, Heenan and Virgil also climbed to the ring apron and Ventura stopped the count. So, with 13 minutes and 47 seconds gone in the match and the Megapowers lying hopelessly on the arena floor, Elizabeth took drastic measures.

To his credit, Andre was the only man in the building who retained his composure. "Wrestle! Wrestle! Forget the girl!" Andre shouted, but DiBiase and Heenan were oblivious.





Andre the Giant has Randy Savage at his mercy (above left). The Giant saves Ted DiBiase from Hulk Hogan's sleeper (above right). It's pandemonium as Hogan puts DiBiase in a sleeper and Savage struggles with the fallen Giant (below). Even Jesse Ventura as referee couldn't keep order in this clash.



Savage and Hogan then got back to their feet and approached the ring from different corners. Savage climbed to the top turnbuckle and came down on Andre's back with a flying axhandle, then turned around and floored Heenan. Hogan then slammed DiBiase to the canvas, setting up the winning series of moves.

With Hogan holding DiBiase to the mat, Savage climbed to the top turnbuckle once again and delivered a shattering elbow. Hogan then came in with a legdrop and covered DiBiase for the pin. Ventura at first hesitated to count the pin, but Savage pushed his arm down to complete the three-count at 14:51.

The turning point: Elizabeth takes off her skirt to distract the Megabucks (above). It works—Hogan covers DiBiase for the pin (below).

Ventura, who billed himself as the "Megaref," was anything but impressive as an official. The evidence, in fact, appears to be against Ventura ever returning to the ring in that capacity. One week before the match, Ventura was seen on TV accepting money from DiBiase. Prior to the match, Ventura engaged in an intense argument with Hogan. Several times during the bout, Ventura wasted time arguing with Elizabeth and ordering her off the ring apron while Andre and DiBiase double-teamed Hogan or Savage.

And, finally, if Ventura did indeed want the Megabucks to win the match, he had nobody but himself to blame for the loss. Savage and Hogan spent at least 30 seconds lying outside the ring while Ventura was preoccupied with Elizabeth's ring attire.

Despite Ventura's questionable officiating, however, the match lived up to its advance billing. Hogan dominated the opening minutes with a series of clotheslines, legdrops, and bodyslams. But after Savage kneedropped DiBiase for the first two-count of the match at 2:44, the Megabucks took over.

Andre brutalized Hogan, then DiBiase clotheslined Hogan for a pair of two-counts. DiBiase choked Hogan, then applied a long side headlock. Hogan worked his way to his feet, but DiBiase took charge again before Savage tagged in. The "Macho Man" delivered an awesome flying axhandle, then reversed a whip to bodypress DiBiase for a two-count.

Andre tagged in and tossed Savage to the turnbuckle, then rammed his shoulder into Savage's midsection. Andre dropped his 497-pound frame on Savage three times, and tagged DiBiase. "The Million-Dollar Man" continued the abuse by suplexing Savage for the two-count, but made a lethal mistake. With Savage prone on the mat, DiBiase climbed to the second rope, turned around, and fell backward with an elbow. Savage rolled out in time and Hogan tagged in.

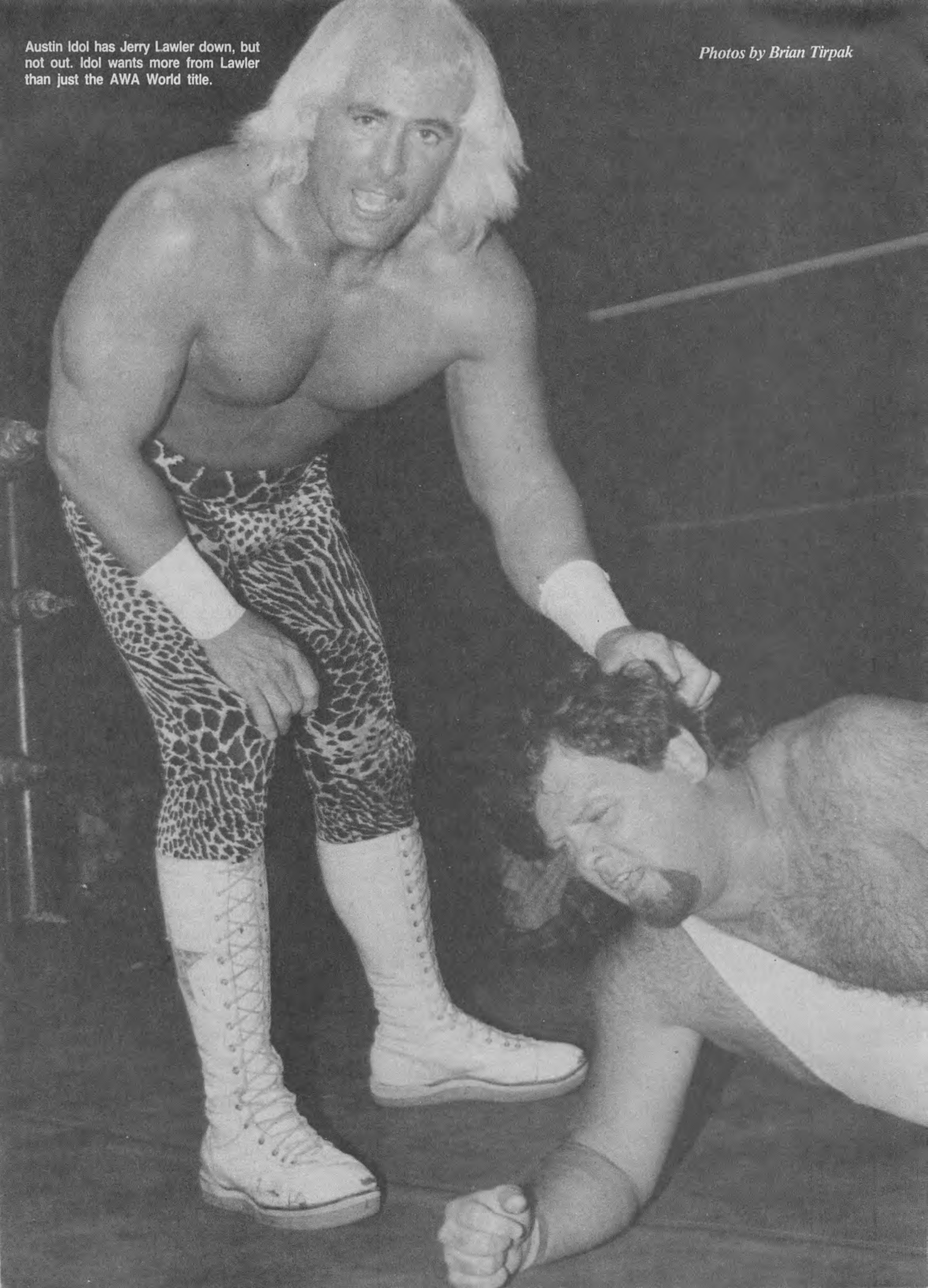
Hogan pounded DiBiase into the corner and tossed him off the turnbuckle for a clothesline. Andre ran into the ring, but Hogan floored him with a series of punches, leaving both men lying on the mat. Savage then climbed to the top rope for an axhandle, but Hogan told him to get down. Hogan applied a sleeper on DiBiase, but Savage's attempted axhandle was stopped when Andre dug his foot into Savage's midsection. DiBiase kicked Savage out of the ring, Andre tossed Hogan, and Elizabeth took over.

There was really no defense for what she did. DiBiase and Andre could've closed their eyes, but that would've been against their nature.

For in the battle of the Megapowers and the Megabucks, there was no way to stop the Megawoman. □

Austin Idol has Jerry Lawler down, but not out. Idol wants more from Lawler than just the AWA World title.

Photos by Brian Tirpak



AUSTIN IDOL:

"I DON'T WANT LAWLER'S BELT . . . I WANT HIS CROWN!"

AUSTIN IDOL HAS changed his attitude. There's no doubting that. Less than 18 months ago, Idol was one of the most hated men in the Mid-Southern (now CWA) area, thanks to his alliance with Tommy Rich and Paul E. Dangerously and a long, vicious feud with Jerry Lawler and Bill Dundee.

Now Idol is one of the most respected men in the Continental Wrestling Federation.

Lawler is the same man he's always been: tough but fair, and willing to put his body on the line to win a match or prove a point. Indeed, he's one of the finest all-around wrestlers in the sport's history. The only difference between Lawler now and Lawler 18 months ago is that now he wears the AWA World championship belt.

And it was under these circumstances that Lawler (AWA champ and CWA fan favorite) and Idol (AWA challenger and CWF fan favorite) renewed their rivalry at the Mid-South Coliseum, site of some of their most famous battles.

Lawler headlocks Idol. Their intense feud started in Memphis in 1987.

Remember the steel cage match in which Rich came out from under the mat (he had been hiding there all night) to join Idol in a vicious double-teaming of Lawler? Remember the countless Mid-Southern title changes between the two? And remember the ultimate battle: a scaffold match, won by Lawler and Dundee, that ended with Dangerously breaking his leg after falling to the mat and being deserted by his charges.

"I haven't forgotten," said Idol moments after Lawler was disqualified for piledriving referee Jerry Calhoun. "It all came back to me tonight, especially after I saw what Lawler did to Calhoun. It proved what I always thought: Lawler is a phony. The fans are rooting for a man who manhandles referees.

"I saw what he did to Dundee, and I've seen how almost every match between Lawler and Kerry Von Erich takes place on Lawler's home turf," Idol continued. "That's why winning tonight the way I did felt so good. It showed what kind of man Lawler *really* is, and that's why I can assure you that I really don't care, I really *don't* want Lawler's belt. It's his *reputation* I want taken care of. This aura about him must be destroyed. I want his crown!"

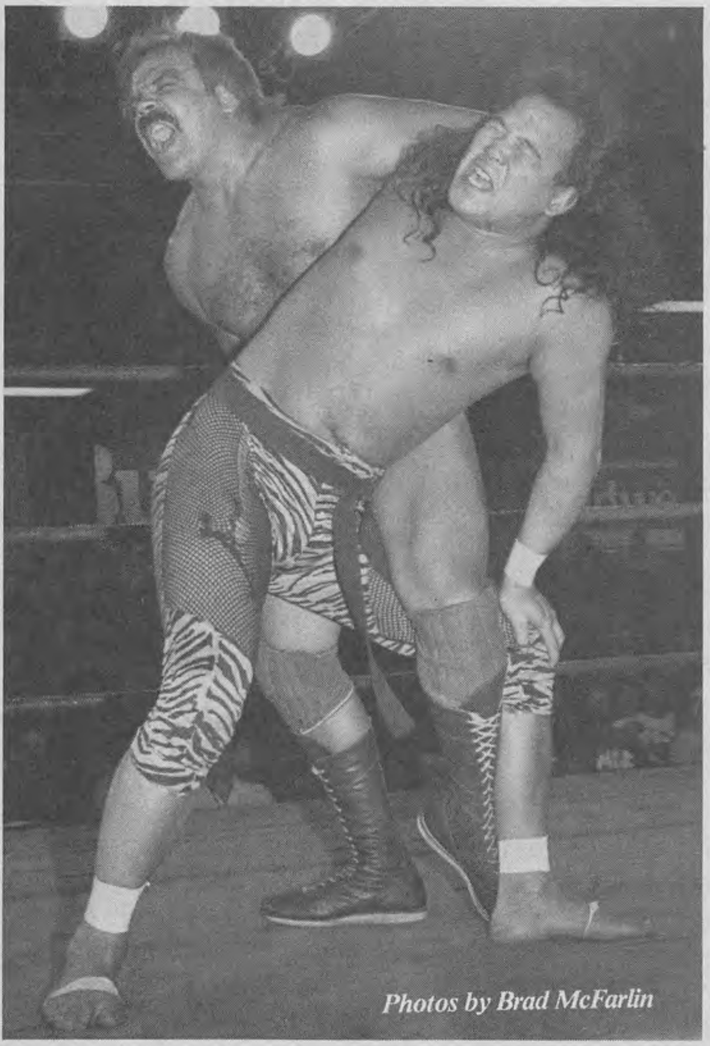
Actually, Idol appeared on the verge of winning both belt *and* crown when he and Lawler wrestled in Birmingham, Alabama, Idol's home turf. In fact, only a spectacu-

(Continued on page 66)

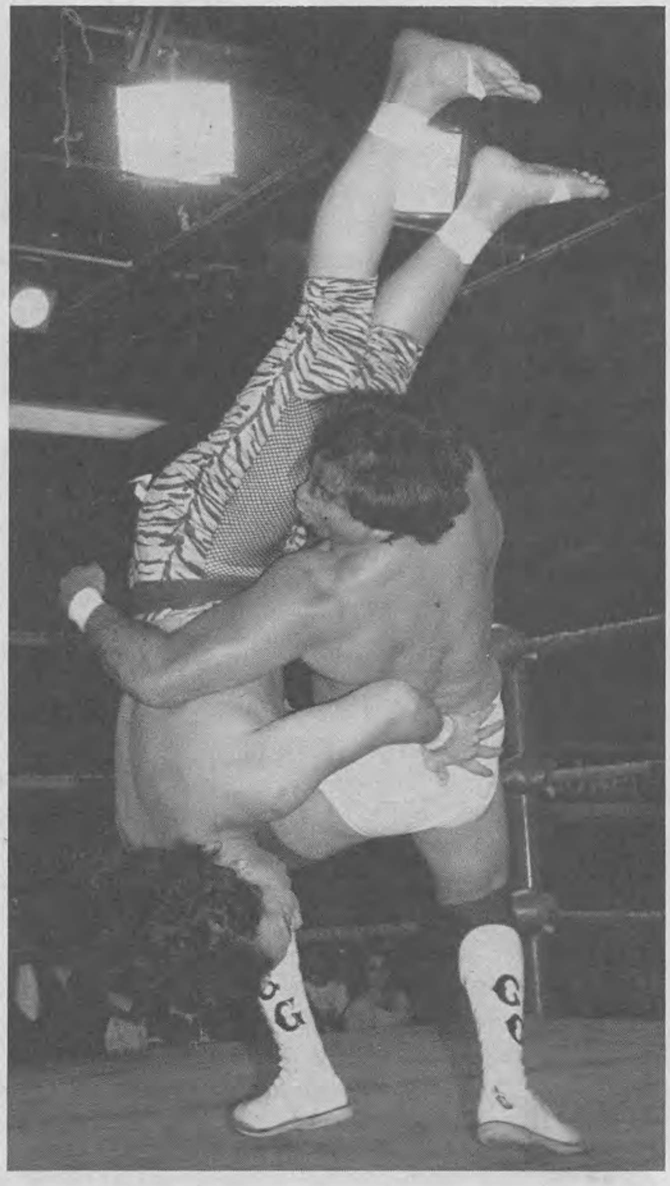
Back in 1987, Austin Idol and Jerry Lawler engaged in one of the hottest feuds in Memphis history. Now they're at it again, but Idol insists that it's not Lawler's AWA World title he's after—it's his reputation!

Shocker In Las Vegas!

THE GUERREROS DEVALUE THE DIAMOND EXCHANGE

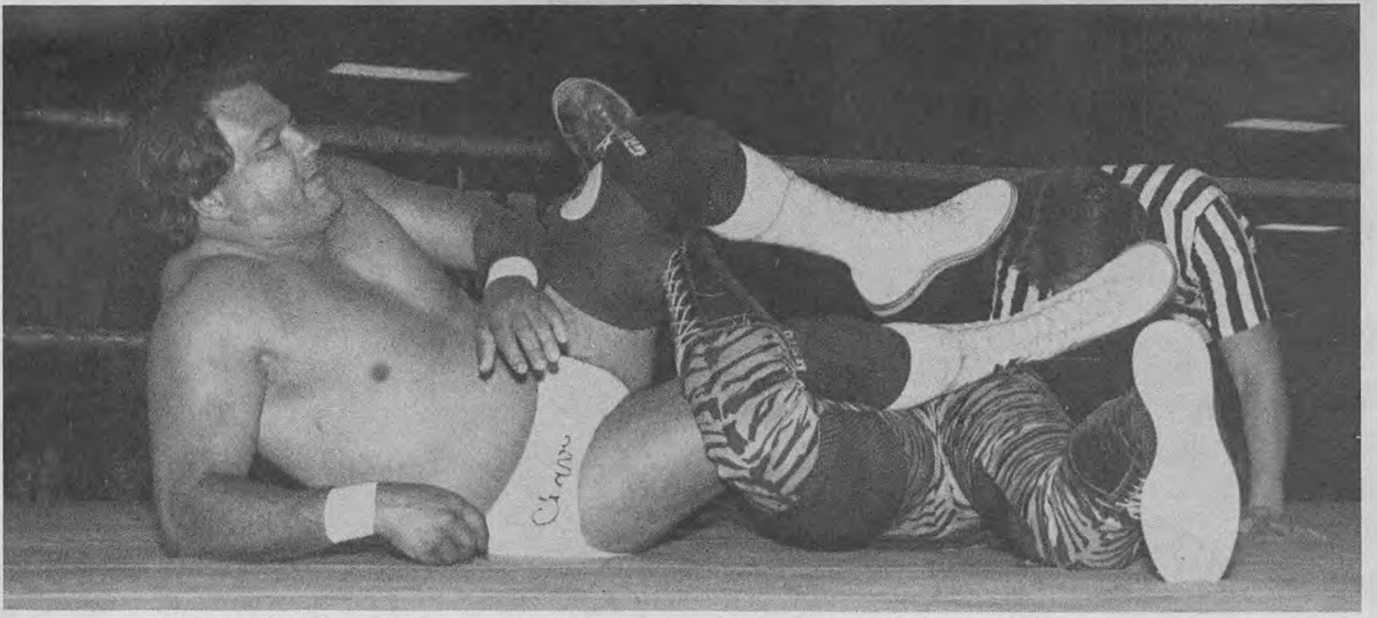


Photos by Brad McFarlin

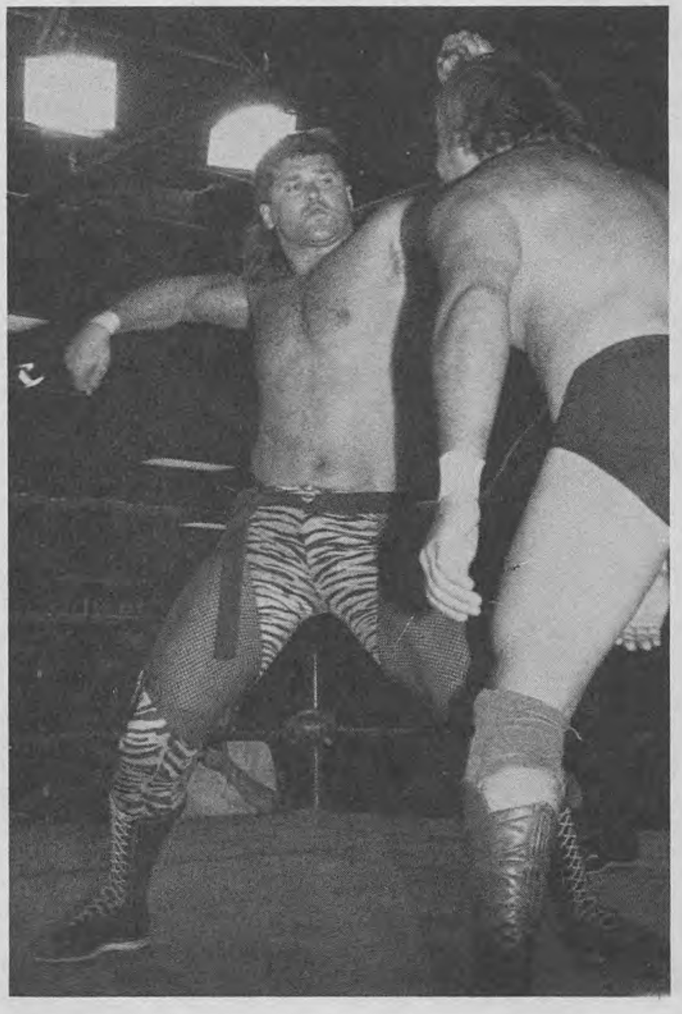


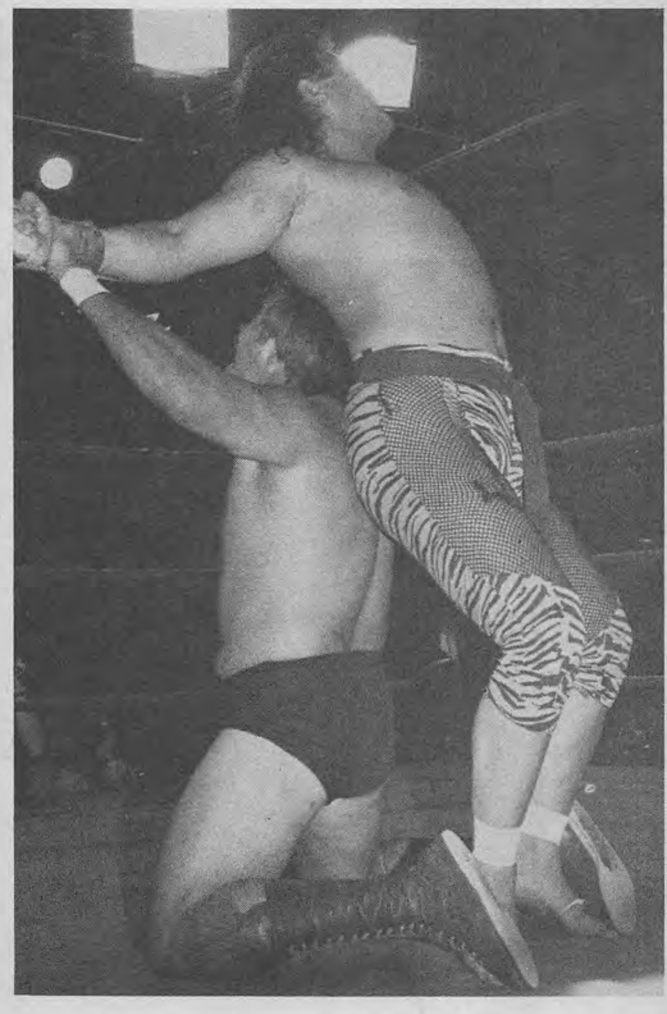
Mando Guerrero catches Pat Tanaka in an abdominal stretch (above); Chavo Guerrero suplexes Tanaka (right). Tanaka and his Bad Company partner Paul Diamond did not expect a tough match from the Guerrero brothers, but that's exactly what they got.

Paul Diamond and Pat Tanaka were set for an easy match one recent night in Las Vegas. It was that night that the young AWA world champions learned that there is no such thing as an "easy match" in professional wrestling—especially against veteran technicians such as Mando and Chavo Guerrero



Chavo leglocks Diamond (above). Diamond winds up to slug Mando (below left). Mando attempts a backslide on Tanaka (below right). Against Bad Company, the Guerreros succeeded in erasing any doubts about their ability.





LAS VEGAS HAS long been the gambling capital of the world. While some claim big winnings at the slot machines and craps tables, there are thousands more who suffer big financial losses. For every dream that is realized in Las Vegas, there are two that are shattered.

It's for that reason that "Diamond" Dallas Page, manager of AWA World tag team champions Pat Tanaka and Paul Diamond—better known at Bad Company—becomes filled with rapture when his team is booked to wrestle at The Showboat Sports Pavilion, located in the heart of this neon desert.

"There are always winners and

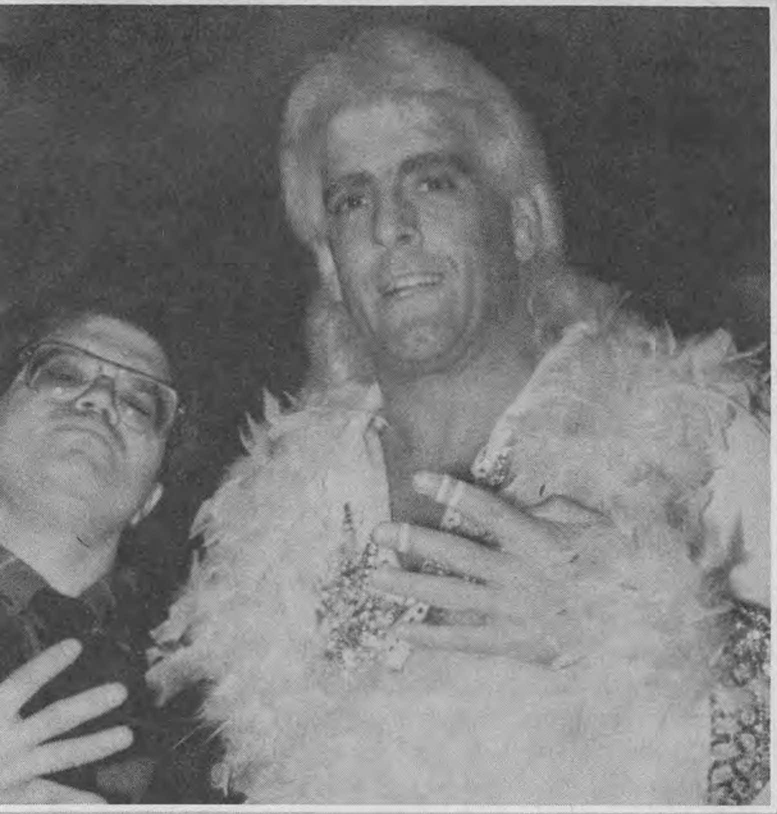
(Continued on page 70)

BEYOND THE SQUARED CIRCLE

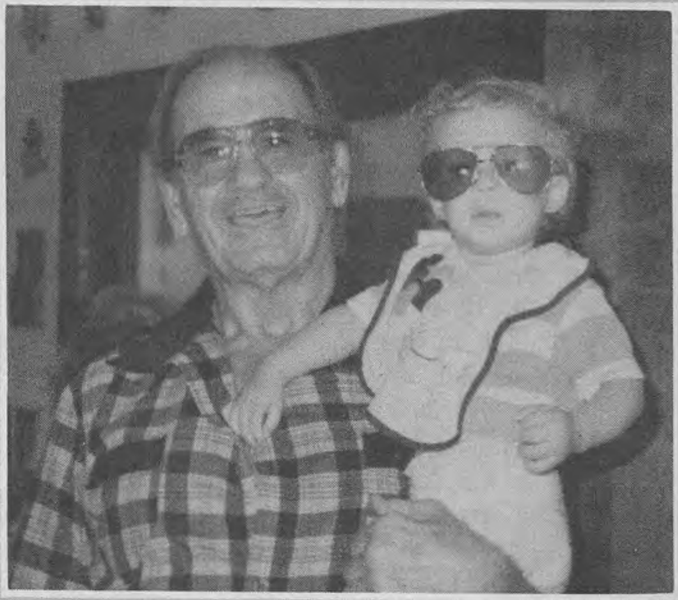
▲ CWA star Bill Dundee and his son Jamie discuss ring apparel. Jamie had his first pro match in August against Downtown Bruno.

▲ Jake "The Snake" Roberts and Jim Duggan spend an uplifting afternoon at a March of Dimes benefit in New York City.

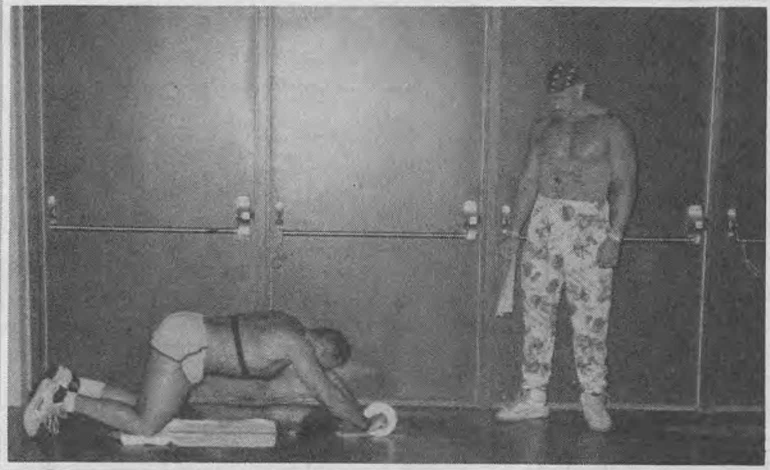
▲ Kerry Von Erich prepares for a night out. Although he doesn't have Michael Hayes' reputation for carousing, Kerry's no wallflower.



◄ Ric Flair is pictured with *Wrestler* photographer Brad McFarlin. This photo fueled short-lived allegations that McFarlin will become the next member of The Four Horsemen.

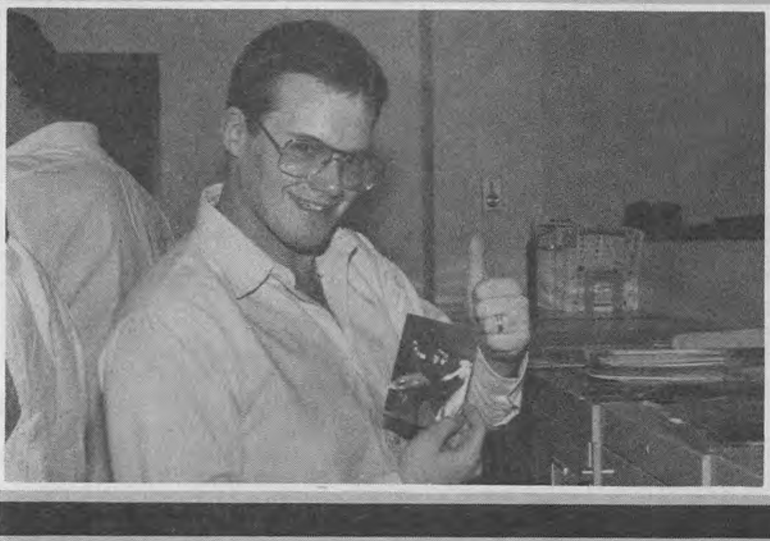


▲ All-time great Lou Thesz and Brandon Apter, son of *Wrestler* Senior Editor Bill Apter, pal around before their "match." Using his father's advice, Brandon pinned Thesz cleanly.



▲ Road Warrior Hawk stands by as Paul Ellering undergoes another strenuous workout. Even the manager of The Legion of Doom has to stay in shape.

▲ Diamond Dallas Page and the Diamond Doll keep abreast of the latest news by reading our sister publication *Inside Wrestling*.



◄ Jim Cornette has a "thumbs up" for a picture of himself in action that he found while perusing through our photo files.

YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 7)

freedom of speech, I think it behooves us to ask a very important question: Does Ms. Williams live in a box, or what? Why is she so ignorant of current events? The only reason likely is that, like a bloodworm, she's spent the last six months under a rock.

I'm referring to her comment that The Four Horsemen alliance is a "healthy 'all for one, one for all' atmosphere." But, Ms. Williams, wasn't it exactly the *unhealthiness* of that atmosphere that eventually suffocated Luger to the point where he was forced to abandon the Horsemen in search of fresh air? J.J. Dillon had fully digested Luger and then spit up the carcass.

Williams is also in error when she attributes Windham's success as a Horseman to the fact that he is a "more giving" individual. If he was really such a giving guy, would he have betrayed Luger in such a gross manner? If your pathetic brain will recall, Ms. Williams, Luger, not Windham, was a victim of a vicious Horseman double-teaming. He struggled valiantly to get back to the ring. When he finally made it, the "more giving" Windham had no sympathy, just betrayal.

I just wish Ms. Williams knew the facts. Maybe then she could make an intelligent comment. Maybe, but I doubt it.

KURT HIRSCH
Bethesda, MD

THE GREAT WHITE NORTH

I know it's kind of late to be responding to a letter from your September 1988 issue, but being from a distant outpost in the Yukon territory of Canada, we get our mail rather late. I've only just had a chance to read a letter in that issue called "Bad Journalism" by Marc Allen of St. Paul, Minnesota. In the letter he complained that the real Bad Company is some AWA team and not, as your July 1988 cover story asserted, Brian Pillman and Bruce Hart—the *real* Bad Company of Stampede wrestling.

Here in Canada we take great pride in Stampede wrestling. It's a great federation, and Bad Company is a great tag team. There have been (and will continue to be) great stars who got their wrestling feet wet in Calgary. It's a federation that doesn't skimp on excitement. The matches are great, the stars are super, and there's never a boring moment in one of their broadcasts.

I remember when I took a vacation "south of the border" (the *Yukon* border, that is) to Calgary and actually got a chance to see Pillman and Hart in action. It was indeed an inspirational wrestling match. These guys really know how to wrestle. From what I've

(Continued on page 54)

Bruce Hart and Brian Pillman are Stampede's Bad Company. Reader Dan Orfield says Hart and Pillman, not the AWA duo of Paul Diamond and Pat Tanaka, are the *real* Bad Company.

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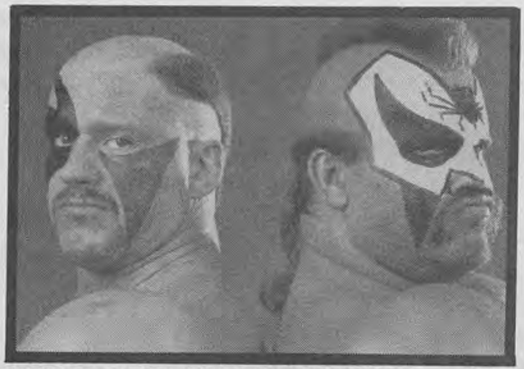

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in the January 1989 issue of
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Exclusive "Hotseat" interview: Find out what the future has in store for **RODDY PIPER**

RIC FLAIR admits: "**LEX LUGER** is wearing me down!"

PLUS . . .

THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR: HONKY TONK MAN'S living nightmare . . . **KEVIN VON ERICH** takes on the system—and loses! . . . Learn why fans can't trust **THE POWERS OF PAIN** . . . Take part in a catfight between valets **DIRTY WHITE GIRL** and **BAMBI** . . . **JIM CORNETTE** and **J.J. DILLION** face off "One on One"

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in the December 1988 issue of
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YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 52)

Ultimate Warrior pounds his chest. Although Anthony Pabon predicted great things for the Warrior, his letter arrived before he could enjoy the thrashing Warrior handed The Honky Tonk Man in taking Honky's Intercontinental title at SummerSlam 88.

read in your magazine, the only thing AWA's Bad Company knows how to do is cheat.

Keep up the good work. Your journalism is not bad. The only thing that's bad is Marc Allen's judgment.

DAN ORFIELD
Mayo, Yukon, Canada

TWO NEW VOICES

When I picked up the October 1988 issue of *The Wrestler*, I was met with a great surprise: you added two new columns. Not only do they add more meat to an already packed magazine, but, lo and behold, these new columns were great!

First, I read Andy Rodriguez's new column "Win, Lose, Or Draw," and was pleased by it. Why? Because it refuted all the malarky that wrestling is getting boring. Rodriguez packed his column full of insightful examples and kept it uniquely entertaining. Even though it was his first column, I *know* he's no newcomer to the sport.

Then, a flip of the page revealed another new column: "Blindsided" by Bob Smith. I was greatly enthused by the punchy prose style Smith brings to his column. His tribute to Jerry Lawler and the AWA's recovery had the feel that it was written by a true fan of the mat sport. I agreed with everything he said. Smith's column should be required reading for all champions.

Thanks again for a great magazine!

RUSS MARTIN
Waltham, MA

ULTIMATEMANIA!

The Ultimate Warrior has certainly proven to me and to all fans that he is the strongest man in wrestling today. I'm sure that the first time Ultimate Warrior meets The Honky Tonk Man, Warrior will emerge with the championship gold around his waist. That is, if Honky Tonk still has the title!

Ultimate Warrior is a strongman with great wrestling talents. He has a few years of experience and the strength with which to harness it. I have confidence that he will be one of the greats of the game whether he's in the WWF or any other federation.

ANTHONY PABON
Uniondale, NY☐

BACK ISSUES OF

VICTORY SPORTS SERIES

THE Wrestler

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November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Piper, Blair.

December 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rich, Kamala, Junkyard Dog.

January 1983/Stories include: Putski, Muraco, Windham, Bockwinkel.

February 1983/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Backlund, Rich, Kamala.

April 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Tiger Mask, Sammartino, Bundy.

May 1983/Stories include: Samoans, Von Erich, Rhodes, Orndorff.

June 1983/Stories include: Windham, Martel, Brody, Andre.

July 1983/Stories include: Flair, Adonis, Sullivan, Zbyszko.

August 1983/Stories include: Valentine, Blanchard, Windham, Street.

September 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Briscos.

October 1983/Stories include: Race, Sawyer, Briscos, Bass.

November 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Santana, Von Erichs, Kabuki.

December 1983/Stories include: Mascaras, Superstar, Von Erich, Zbyszko.

January 1984/Stories include: Valentine, Hogan, Von Erich, Road Warriors.

March 1984/Stories include: Santana, Hogan, Von Erich, Sawyers.

April 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Rhodes.

May 1984/Stories include: Windham, Brody, Road Warriors, Junkyard Dog.

June 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Billy Jack, Flair, Armstrong.

July 1984/Stories include: Rich, Billy Jack, Valiant, Von Erich.

August 1984/Stories include: Garvin, Sullivan, Freebirds, Street.

September 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Piper, Steamboat, Billy Jack.

October 1984/Stories include: Flair, Rhodes, Magnum T.A., Bundy.

November 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Von Erich, Piper, Brody.

December 1984/Stories include: Martel, Santana, Von Erich, Steamboat.

JANUARY 1985

January 1985/Stories include: Von Erich, Warriors, Albano, Koloffs.

February 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Santana, Billy Jack, Nikita Koloff.

March 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Warriors, Martel, Rude.

April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Von Erich-Adams, Flair, Tonga & Snuka.

May 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Backlund, Santana, Rich.

June 1985/Stories include: Rhodes, Windham, Rich, Hogan.

July 1985/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Reed, Martel, Sunshine.

August 1985/BONUS 4-PG. COLOR SECTION! Plus: Warriors, Magnum T.A., Sheik & Volkoff, McGraw.

September 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Savage, R&R Express.

October 1985/Stories include: Flair, Windham, Shultz, Martel.

November 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Zbyszko, R&R Express, Von Erichs.

December 1985/Stories include: Rude, Fantastics, Muraco, Uncle Elmer.

January 1986/20th Anniversary Issue! 10 Greatest Wrestlers, Rhodes, Hogan, Sammartino.

February 1986/Stories include: Hogan, Orndorff, Flair, Hansen.

March 1986/Stories include: Von Erich, Duggan, Hansen-Martel.

April 1986/Stories include: Von Erich, Rude, Lugar, Hogan, Magnum T.A.

May 1986/Stories include: Zbyszko, Von Erichs, Santana-Ventura, Hillbillies.

June 1986/Stories include: Lugar, Hernandez, Flair-Bockwinkel, Hogan, T.A.

July 1986/Stories include: King Kong Bundy, Koloff vs. Graham, Ric Flair.

August 1986/Stories include: Snuka, Bulldogs, Freebirds, Warriors, Duggan.

September 1986/Stories include: Fantastics, Adonis, Morton-Flair, Brody.

OCTOBER 1986

October 1986/Stories include: Nikita-Magnum, Nord, Bruno, Kerry, Windham.

November 1986/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan-Orndorff, Von Erich.

December 1986/Stories include: Flair, Bockwinkel, Hogan, Gilbert, Nikita.

January 1987/Stories include: Heenan, Garvins, DiBiase, Borne & Sawyer.

February 1987/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Gordy, Steamboat-Roberts.

March 1987/Stories include: Windham, Nikita, Adias, Savage-Steamboat.

April 1987/Stories include: Hogan, Luger, Rich-Lawler, R&R Express.

May 1987/Stories include: Flair-Nikita, Andre-Hogan, UWF, Windham, Hennig.

June 1987/Stories include: Flair-Windham, Can-Ams, Rhodes-Murdoch.

July 1987/Stories include: Cornette, Hyatt, Luger, Harts, Adams, Hansen.

August 1987/Stories include: Can-Ams, Luger vs. Nikita, Fantastics, Koko, Nord.

September 1987/Stories include: Koloffs, Harts, Duggan, Hennig, Hart.

October 1987/Stories include: Savage-Honky Tonk, Horsemen, Patera, Kerry.

November 1987/Stories include: Williams, Luger, Hogan-Khan, Rich.

December 1987/Stories include: Hogan, Windham, Lawler, Flair, Beefcake.

January 1988/Stories include: Nikita-Taylor, Warriors, DiBiase-Duggan.

February 1988/Stories include: Flair, Andre-Hogan, New Breed, Kerry.

March 1988/Stories include: Hogan, Luger-Sting, Calgary, Demolition.

April 1988/Special issue! Starrcade '87, Survivor Series, AWA & World Class. Also: Strike Force, Luger, Rockers.

May 1988/Stories include: Horsemen, Hogan, Flair, Fantastics, DiBiase.

June 1988/Stories include: Sting-Flair, DiBiase, Kerry, Nikita, Zenk.

July 1988/Stories include: Fantastics, Hogan, Windham, McMahon, Rich.

August 1988/Stories include: Savage, Windham-Luger split, Demolition, Lawler, Ellering.

September 1988/Stories include: Duggan vs. Andre, Hogan, Windham.

October 1988/Stories include: Rhodes, Fantastics, Hennig, Roberts-Rude.

November 1988/Stories include: Midnight Ex., DiBiase, Bossman, Brody.

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March 1987

PWI
March 1988

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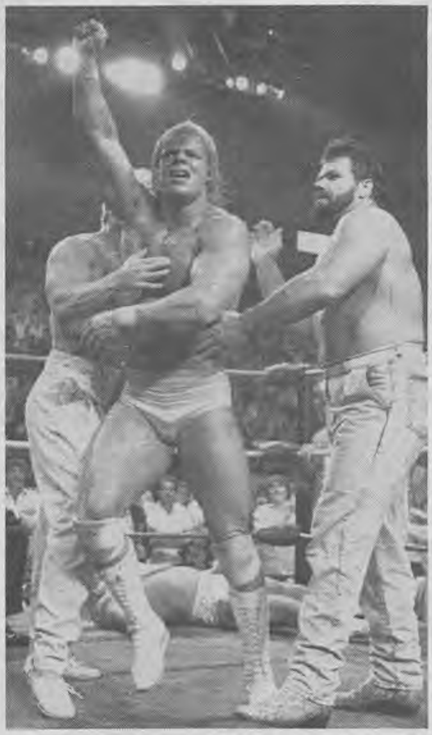
YOU ASKED US

(Continued from page 18)



Lex Luger is congratulated by Sting and Steve Williams after his match against Ric Flair. Moments later, Luger's celebration ended as Flair was declared the winner.

more should have been stopped."—Karlan Sick, New York

A: **"Not at all," Rosenbaum replied. "In fact, I consider it an abomination. First, Luger's cut was *not* that severe. Second, it's questionable whether that state guideline really exists. Third, Flair has been awarded another victory rather than *earned* one. Flair is a wrestler of tremendous talents who has been allowed to weasel his way out of serious wrestling for a long time now. That's not wrestling. He should beat opponents with pins or have the title stripped from him. I'm in favor of putting integrity back into the titles."**

***

Q: "My question is for Bruno Sammartino: Who do you think is the greatest Intercontinental champion of all time?"—Travis Larsen, Augusta, KS

A: **"You know, Travis, a question is usually asked when an answer is unknown," Bruno replied. "But everybody knows, doggone it, that Pedro Morales is the finest I-C champion of all time. Not only did Morales defend his I-C belt with honor and integrity, he also held the WWF World belt and also the WWF World tag team belt. He's the only one to ever hold all three belts! He was a great wrestler, and it's a crying shame that The Honky Tonk Man has erased Pedro's I-C belt record by holding the title the longest. This Honky Tonk guy is the biggest sham in the history of**

Buddy Rose finds out what it's like to be on the receiving end of a Pedro Morales punch. According to Bruno Sammartino, Morales was the best I-C champion ever.

the WWF. He can't wrestle. All he does is sing, and he can't even do that. He has no business being in a wrestling ring."

***

Q: "My question is for Lance Russell, CWA announcer: You've seen a lot of brutality in your federation. Who's worse, Eddie Gilbert or Robert Fuller?"—Fred Mock, Mattapoisett, MA

A: **"Well, let me tell you," Russell answered, "you're right, I've seen it all, and there's no good way to look at violence. I refuse to compare the two. The Gilbert family was every bit as ruthless and base as Fuller's Stud Stable. Their activities should never be tolerated. I have only contempt for them."** ☐

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June 1982/Stories include: Valentine, Von Erich, Slaughter, Morales.
July 1982/Stories include: Hogan, Rhodes, Steamboat, Adonis.
August 1982/Stories include: Andre, Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Backlund.
September 1982/Stories include: Atlas, Piper, Lawler, Brody.
October 1982/Stories include: Rich, Andre, Piper, Dillon.
November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Von Erich, Slaughter.
December 1982/Stories include: Mulligan, Rich, Lawler, Grand Wizard.
February 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, DiBiase, Race.
March 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Graham, Johnson, Funk.
April 1983/Stories include: Snuka, Patera, Kabuki, Rich.
May 1983/Stories include: Rich, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat.
June 1983/Stories include: Studd, Garvin, Rogers, Orton.
July 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Freebirds, Rhodes, Youngblood.
August 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Garvin, Sullivan, Lawler.
September 1983/Stories include: Zbyszko, Piper, Andre, Hayes.
October 1983/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Junkyard Dog, Rhodes.
November 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Reed, Von Erich, Dillon.
December 1983/Stories include: Von Erich, Samoans, Valiant, Road Warriors.
March 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Rich, Rhodes, Garvin.
April 1984/Stories include: Flair, Steamboat, Superstar, Windham.
May 1984/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Steamboat, Rotundo, Von Erich.
June 1984/Stories include: Flair, Slaughter, Cornette, DiBiase.
July 1984/Stories include: Valiant, Flair, Martel, Wrestling II.
August 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Idol, Spoiler.
September 1984/Stories include: Martel, Brody, Von Erich, Iron Sheik.
October 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Road Warriors, Steamboat, Piper.
November 1984/Stories include: Rhodes, Rich, Hernandez, Warriors.
December 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Warriors, Sullivan, Magnum T.A.
January 1985/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Rhodes, Atlas, Von Erich.
February 1985/Stories include: Rich, Adams, Valiant, Flair.
March 1985/Stories include: Backlund, Billy Jack, Koloffs, Von Erichs.

APRIL 1985

April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Albano & Hogan, Steamboat, Gordy.
May 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Garvin, Albano, Koloffs.
June 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Slaughter, Von Erichs, Studd & Patera.
July 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Nikita, Warriors.
August 1985/Stories include: Wrestlemania, Zbyszko vs. The Tonga Kid.
September 1985/Stories include: Piper, Flair, Fantastics, Magnum T.A.
October 1985/Stories include: Russian menace, Von Erichs, Rude & Barr.
November 1985/Stories include: Steamboat, Adams, Freebirds, Cornette.
December 1985/Stories include: Santana, Brody, Andersons, Murdoch.
January 1986/Stories include: Steamboat, Mike Von Erich, Warriors.
February 1986/Stories include: R'n'R Express, Warriors, Mulligan & Windham.
March 1986/Stories include: Windham & Rotundo, Warriors-Russians, Rude.
April 1986/Stories include: Scott Hall, Rhodes, Flair, Andre, Bill Watts
May 1986/Stories include: Randy Savage, Stan Hansen, Rock 'n' Rolls.
June 1986/Stories include: Bulldogs, Windham-Flair, Lance Von, Blanchard.
July 1986/All-American Special Issue. Stories include: Hogan, Slaughter, T.A.
August 1986/Stories include: WrestleMania 2, Garvins, Martel, Fab Ones.
September 1986/Stories include: Andre,Rhodes-T.A., Adams, Windham.
October 1986/Stories include: Flair-Lugar, Savage, Fantastics, Warriors.
November 1986/Stories include: Warriors-Flair, Bulldogs, Watts, Adams.
December 1986/Stories include: Hogan-Adonis, R&R Express, Baby Doll.
January 1987/Stories include: Rude-Flair, Piper, T.A., Taylor.
February 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Piper-Orndorff, Taylor, Flair.
March 1987/Stories include: Flair, Missy, Luger, Bulldogs, Koloffs.
April 1987/Stories include: Windham, Steamboat, Ellering, Duggan.
May 1987/Stories include: Windham & Luger, Steamboat, Hogan-Andre.
June 1987/Stories include: Piper-Adonis, Horsemen, Adams, Hall, Brody.
July 1987/Stories include: Danny Davis, DiBiase, Rockers, Rotundo, Andersons.
August 1987/Stories include: Dusty & Nikita, Hogan, Mike Von, Cornette.
September 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Race, R&R Exp., Rich, Honky Tonk.
October 1987/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan, Taylor-Adams, Lawler.
November 1987/Stories include: War Games, Mr. T, Bulldogs, Rhodes.

DECEMBER 1987

December 1987/Stories include: Freebirds, Rhodes, Magnum, Savage, Perez.
January 1988/Stories include: R&R-Horsemen, Hogan, Flair-Garvin.
February 1988/Stories include: Savage, Kevin Von, Sting, Tully & Arn.
March 1988/Stories include: Bigelow, Adams, Koloff, Honky Tonk, Freebirds.
April 1988/Stories include: Luger-Flair, Ultimate Warrior, Andre-Hogan-DiBiase.
May 1988/Stories include: Zbyszko, DiBiase, Warriors, Rockers, Fritz Von.
June 1988/Stories include: Warriors, Savage, R&R Express, Baby Doll.
July 1988/Stories include: Hogan-Savage-DiBiase, Kerry & Hayes, Sting.
August 1988/Stories include: Savage, Missy Hyatt, Sting, Hayes, Honky Tonk.
September 1988/SPECIAL ISSUE: Color coverage of WMIV, Parade of Champs, Crockett Cup. Plus: Lawler, Von Erich, Hart, Cornette.
October 1988/Stories include: Megapowers vs. Megabucks, Horsemen, Lawler.
November 1988/Stories include: Kerry vs. Lawler, Windham, Luger, Muraco.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

(Continued from page 8)

August 2, 1988, eclipsing the record set in 1981-1983 by **Pedro Morales**. Ultimate Warrior immediately signed for a series of rematches against Honky Tonk.

Here are the complete results from SummerSlam: **Randy Savage** and **Hulk Hogan** defeated **Andre the Giant** and **Ted DiBiase** . . . **Demolition** defeated **The Hart Foundation** . . . **Jake Roberts** pinned **Hercules Hernandez** . . . **The British Bulldogs** and **The Rougeau Brothers** battled to a time-limit draw . . . **The Powers of Pain** pinned **The Bolsheviks** . . . **Big Bossman** pinned **Koko B. Ware** . . . **Bad News Brown** pinned **Ken Patera** . . . **Dino Bravo** pinned **Don Muraco** . . . **Rick Rude** defeated **Junkyard Dog** by disqualification when Roberts interfered.

The Continental Wrestling Federation has signed **Davey** and **Johnny Rich**, **Doug Furnas**, and **The Bullet** of the now-defunct USA federation . . . **Dustin Rhodes**, son of "The American Dream" **Dusty Rhodes**, was scheduled to make his pro debut on September 6 at the Tampa Fairgrounds on a Florida Championship Wrestling card . . . "The Living Legend" **Bruno Sammartino** will be inducted into the Italian-American Sports Hall of Fame on January 27 at Caesars Boardwalk Regency in Atlantic City. "This is one of the greatest moments of my career," said the two-time former WWF World champ.

Kerry Von Erich was carried off on a stretcher after getting mauled by **Tommy Rich** and **Buddy Landell** during a tag team match in Memphis. Kerry, the World Class champ, was teaming with AWA World champ **Jerry Lawler**. **Austin Idol** had been scheduled to team with Rich, but did not appear.

Kerry got into trouble when he and Lawler threw Landell out of the ring and prepared to slam Rich into the ringpost. Suddenly, Landell pulled a pair of handcuffs out from under the ring and hit

Lex Luger fights to break Ric Flair's figure-four leglock during their NWA World title match at The Omni in Atlanta. Luger won by disqualification.

both Lawler and Von Erich. Landell handcuffed Lawler to the ropes, then helped Rich drag Kerry into the ring. They piledrived him on a chair several times, badly bloodying Kerry, before several fan favorites cleared the ring.

A tournament for the vacant Central States title, last held by **D.J. Peterson**, is scheduled to be held on October 14. **Tommy Gilbert**, **Mike Stone**, **The Grim Reaper**, and **Rick McCord** were among the early entrants . . . **Brian Pillman** injured his right bicep during a match against **Gama Singh** and **Johnny Smith** and might require surgery . . . Believe it or not, **Buddy Roberts** has declared his candidacy for President of the United States! . . . **Wendi Richter** is coming to the AWA to feud with women's champion **Madusa Miceli**.

Steve DiSalvo challenged Stampede North American champion **Makhan Singh** to a series of matches and Singh, in the "spirit of competitiveness" (they were, at the time, close friends), accepted. In their matches so far, however, DiSalvo has been on the verge of victory, only to get attacked by "Karachi Vice" members **Vulkan Singh**, **Gama Singh**, **Jerry Morrow**, **The Cuban Assassin**, and **Goldie Rogers**.

Lex Luger defeated NWA World champ **Ric Flair** by disqualification on the NWA's first show at The Omni in Atlanta since the July Democratic Convention. Luger has dominated Flair in their rematches, but hasn't been able to score a decisive pin . . . **Kevin Sullivan**, now an ally of **Gary Hart** and **Al Perez**, is preparing for a series of dog collar chain matches against **Dusty Rhodes** . . . **Greg Gagne** received two shots at AWA World champ **Jerry Lawler**. In Gastonia, North Carolina, the two wrestled to a double-countout; in Charleston, South Carolina, Lawler was disqualified for tossing Gagne over the top rope.

And that's what's happening. See you at the matches! □

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LOVE TO HATE

(Continued from page 31)

stopped. Comfortable places and situations are no longer comfortable.

"It's agony," said 68-year-old Roz Gersten of Norfolk, Virginia. "For so long you wish that these two teams would just kill each other, and then when you finally get to see it, it drives you crazy. I got so caught up in the action that I even started rooting for The Midnight Express. Then, just as suddenly, I took a look at myself and said, 'Roz, you gone nuts or something? What you *doing* rooting for The Express?' I change sides 20 times a match! It's a match you want to love, but you go nuts trying to figure out what side you're on!"

Roz's dilemma haunts many fans. When the war came to Philadelphia, the majority of fans sided with Blanchard and Anderson. In Richmond, however, the fan response for the Midnights was decidedly stronger.

"I don't even bother with the pretense of picking a rooting interest," said Leslie Batchelor of Ivy, Virginia. "I hate both teams equally. Just watching them destroy each other is good enough for me!"

Her companion, Scott Williams, disagreed. "C'mon, now! How can you *not* pick sides? That's the best part of wrestling! I love this matchup, but I can't imagine watching it *without* picking sides. And besides, after I saw what Arn Anderson did to Bobby Eaton, a man he's always referred to as his best friend, I don't think I could

Stan Lane takes a kneelift from Arn Anderson. It is hard to believe that these two rulebreaking teams are actually engaged in a feud. The fans, while a bit confused, have thoroughly enjoyed this classic matchup.

Anderson and Bobby Eaton, their once-close friendship a victim of clashing ambitions, try to choke each other.

ever sit here and not support The Midnight Express!"

"But, Scott," Batchelor replied passionately, "You're rooting for *The Midnight Express!* Don't you understand what that means? You would *never* support them against anyone else, so why start now? They're *still* just as evil!"

The debate continued between the two fans, just as it continues throughout the NWA. Sure, fans relish the opportunity to see the most hated teams in the federation go at it, but after the excitement wears off, many feel dissatisfied. It's not for lack of action, but because many don't feel the necessary level of attachment to these teams. Most just don't care who *wins*—actually, they'd much rather see both sides lose!

When asked about the matchup, NWA President Jim Crockett did not share the fans' trauma. Indeed, he was downright overjoyed.

"You bet I'm overjoyed," Crockett said. "This is a match a promoter dreams of; it's the match of a lifetime. I endured hours of painstaking negotiations with both J.J. Dillon and Jim Cornette to secure this matchup, and I think the fans are responding favorably. These are the two teams they love to hate. The only thing they may hate more is choosing who to root for."

For the managers involved in this war, the reactions of the fans holds little weight.

"Fan favorites?" screamed Jim Cornette, manager of The Midnight Express. "What the hell do we care if we're fan favorites? We're here to win the World belts from those elitist pigs and their piglet manager, J.J. Dillon. That's all. We're not doing this to make points with the fans."

Predictably, Dillon had the same opinion. "We've never been concerned with something so tenuous as fan approval. The only thing that matters are the belts, and we have them all."

Dillon's self-confidence in this case is justified. Having all the major NWA titles makes The Four Horsemen quite a target. For this reason, it should make the matches pitting Blanchard and Anderson against the Express the fans' top series of the year. But as this autumn war flames like a pile of burning leaves, the fans have to choose between cheering for one team or another, or else run the risk of feeling left out on the fringes of the action.

"That's exactly the problem," concluded Jeff Davis of Sumpter, South Carolina. "You know you can't root for either team because you hate them so much. But if you *don't* root, the match is like watching two people you don't know have a street fight. Without a rooting interest, it's like you're not really there. I love the action, but I hate having to root for either team! Who would have thought that a match pitting the two teams I hate would end up disappointing me?" □

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WIN, LOSE, OR DRAW

(Continued from page 10)

Since guiding Nick Bockwinkel to the AWA World title, Bobby Heenan hasn't managed a champion; his four years in the WWF have seen "The Brain" beltless. The Islanders might have changed that, but Heenan decided not to finish his "experiment."

lot on his mind. Apparently, winning the WWF tag team title isn't one of them.

"That was always one of Bobby's problems," said Bobby Duncum, who was managed by Heenan in the AWA. "He always had too many irons in the fire. He figured that if he put a lot of men out there, he'd have to win *something.* Well, sometimes it worked, and sometimes it didn't."

In the AWA, Heenan managed Nick Bockwinkel to the World title. But after four years in the WWF, Heenan hasn't won a thing. You can tell it gnaws at him; just look at his face. Andre's 40-second title reign came during the brief period of time when Ted DiBiase held his contract. Rude has won a slew of belts elsewhere, but has had no great success in the WWF. The same with Hercules. Even the great Harley Race didn't win a belt under Heenan's tutelage.

Few would deny that Heenan is a brilliant tactician. His years as both wrestler and manager have given him a unique perspective of the sport. He is also very good at building up the confidence of his men, making them believe that they really *are* the best. So it follows that most of his failures can be attributed to just plain bad luck.

But with The Islanders, Heenan must shoulder most of the blame. Instead of trying to coax Tama back to the team, he made Haku into "King Haku," the successor to "King" Harley Race. While it is a boon to Haku's career, it does nothing for Heenan's.

"Haku is doing so well, he'll never go back to being somebody's partner," his friend said. "Unlike Tama, Haku respects Heenan and will listen to him, but not even Heenan could make him

go back to being an Islander. Maybe he could have six months ago, but not today. The Islanders are dead as far as Haku is concerned."

Aside from the teaming of Andre and DiBiase, Heenan currently has no plans to manage a permanent tag team. "He's going back to what he feels he knows best: singles wrestling," said a WWF insider. "He's not the tag team expert that Jimmy Hart is, and he knows it. He likes the challenge of taking one man and molding him into a champion, rather than dealing with two men and two different ways of thinking. The Islanders were like an experiment that failed."

Failed, that is, in Heenan's eyes. The Islanders were clearly on their way up. By letting them disband, Heenan really did prove that he cares more about singles competition. The "experiment" didn't fail; it was just never completed.

"With Bobby's luck, The Islanders will probably get back together and win the title with another manager," the WWF source said. "That seems to be his history here."

The law of averages dictates that if Heenan manages in the WWF long enough, he will eventually manage a winner. But "The Brain" doesn't live by the law of averages, he lives by the law of the pocketbook—which states that the longer he goes without winning, the less money he makes.

Which makes it all the more perplexing that he let The Islanders fall apart. For every dollar he invested in Haku and Tama, he made at least three in return. And winning is contagious. Had The Islanders won the belts, Heenan's other men may have received the surge of confidence they needed to put them over the top.

Has a manager ever lasted so long in an area without winning a title? □

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SPRING 1986/Color pinup: The Road Warriors. **Stories include:** Martel, Savage vs. Poffo, Hogan, Santana, Steamboat.

SUMMER 1986/Color pinup: Rock 'n' Roll Express & Magnum T.A. **Stories include:** Flair, Warriors, JYD, Magnum, Williams.

FALL 1986/Color pinup: Randy Savage. **Stories include:** R&R Express, Missy, Roberts, Windham, Luger, Rhodes.

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SPRING 1987/Color pinup: The Four Horsemen. **Stories include:** Ventura, T.A., Bulldogs, Adias, Savage-Steamboat.

SUMMER 1987/Color pinup: Road Warriors workout. **Stories include:** Hogan-Andre, Rockers, Koloff, Warriors, Hall-Luger.

FALL 1987/Color pinup: Dark Journey. **Stories include:** Albano, Hogan, T.A., Lane, Hyatt, Hennig, Luger.

WINTER 1987/Color pinup: Jesse Ventura. **Stories include:** Kerry, Rhodes, Hogan, Flair, Honky Tonk, DiBiase.

SPRING 1988/Color pinup: Elizabeth. **Stories include:** Hennig, Koloff, Savage, Strike Force, Warriors, Andre-Hogan.

SUMMER 1988/Color pinup: Missy Hyatt. **Stories include:** Rock 'n' Roll Express, Hogan, Sting, Luger, Owen Hart, Animal.

FALL 1988/Color pinup: Madusa Miceli. **Stories include:** Savage, Hyatt, Von Erich, Triple Dome, Demolition, Steamboat, Heenan, Lawler.

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(Continued from page 16)

New Haven, CT ***(Correspondent—Jeff June):*** In the main event, Andre the Giant went up against Hacksaw Duggan in a lumberjack match. The match started off evenly, with neither man able to gain much of an advantage over the other. Andre soon gained the upper hand, however, by choking Duggan with the shoulder strap of his tights. He even sat on Duggan!

When Andre tried to headbutt Hacksaw near the corner, he missed and smashed into the turnbuckle, snapping it off. Duggan would use the turnbuckle as a weapon for the rest of the match.

The end came when King Haku jumped on the ring apron, angrily occupying the referee. Duggan got his 2x4 and knocked Andre out of the ring. Distracted by the wrestlers surrounding the ring, Andre was counted out.

In other bouts: Brutus Beefcake defeated Intercontinental champion The Honky Tonk Man by DQ ... Greg Valentine pinned Don Muraco ... Bad News Brown beat Jim Neidhart ... King Haku destroyed Jerry Allen ... The British Bulldogs defeated The Bolsheviks by countout ... Big Bossman pinned Sam Houston ... Terry Taylor beat Scott Casey.

Road Warrior Hawk pushes Ivan Koloff from the scaffold. Later Hawk and Animal succeeded in kicking The Russian Assassin off for the victory.

Salisbury, MD ***(Correspondent—Harry Burkett Jr.):*** The excitement mounted as the scaffold was being constructed for the Skywalkers match between The Road Warriors and the team of Ivan Koloff and The Russian Assassin.

The action started quickly as the Warriors immediately went after their hated foes. While Hawk traded blows with the Assassin, Koloff gained the advantage for his team by throwing powder into Animal's face. Animal fought back and overwhelmed Koloff with forearm smashes and kicks. A dazed Koloff soon found himself hanging from the scaffold, then Animal kicked him off.

The Warriors had a harder time with the Assassin. Hawk managed to knock him off his feet as he and Animal proceeded to stomp away at him. After much effort, they succeeded in kicking the Assassin off the scaffold for the victory. After the match, Koloff and Paul Jones got in a cheap shot by choking Paul Ellering with a chain. Ellering was finally saved by the Warriors.

In other bouts: Ric Flair & Barry Windham went to a double-countout with Lex Luger & Sting ... Steve Williams & Nikita Koloff defeated Tully Blanchard & Arn Anderson by DQ ... The Fantastics beat The Midnight Express & Jim Cornette ... Rick Steiner pinned Kendall Windham. □

Andre the Giant punishes Hacksaw Duggan during their continuing feud. Andre eventually lost the match by countout.

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October 1982/COLOR PINUP: Jerry Lawler. **Ric Flair**, Rhodes, Graham, Race, Funk Jr.

January 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ken Patera. **Rick Steamboat**, Rich, Brody, Sullivan, Backlund.

February 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Putski. **Rhodes vs. Garvin**, Snuka, Super Destroyer, Bockwinkel, Funk.

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January 1984/COLOR PINUP: Harley Race. **Rick Martel,** Snuka, Freebirds, Dillon, Sawyer.

February 1984/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Sunshine. **Greg Valentine,** Super Destroyer, Race, Sawyer, Abdullah.

June 1984/COLOR PINUP: Dick Slater. **Ted DiBiase,** Wrestling II, Magnum T.A., Patera, Hogan.

July 1984/COLOR PINUP: Paul Ellering. **Jimmy Valiant,** JYD, Fab Ones, Gagne, Windham.

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October 1984/COLOR PINUP: Billy Jack. **Kerry Von Erich,** Martel, Blanchard, Fabulous Blonds, Armstrong.

November 1984/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. **Sgt. Slaughter,** Von Erich, Road Warriors, Windham, Rotundo.

January 1985/COLOR PINUP: Tito Santana. **Road Warriors,** Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.

February 1985/COLOR PINUP: Magnum T.A. **Rick Martel,** Hogan, Backlund, Ellering.

April 1985/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin, **Jimmy Snuka,** Warriors, Gordy, Flair, Rhodes.

June 1985/COLOR PINUP: Barry Windham. **Dusty Rhodes,** Slaughter, Hogan, Von Erich, T.A.

JULY 1985

July 1985/COLOR PINUP: Sgt. Slaughter. **Hogan vs. Piper,** Warriors, One Man Gang, T.A., Martel.

September 1985/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog. **Magnum T.A,** Von Erich, Hogan, AWA scouting reports.

October 1985/COLOR PINUP: Chris Adams. **Rick Steamboat,** Warriors, Nikita, WWF scouting reports.

November 1985/COLOR PINUP: Randy Savage. **Ric Flair,** Slaughter, Steamboat, World Class scouting reports.

December 1985/COLOR PINUP: Jesse Ventura. **Great American Bash,** Von Erich, Orndorff, Williams & DiBiase.

January 1986/COLOR PINUP: Hacksaw Duggan. **Hulk Hogan,** T.A., Brody.

February 1986/COLOR PINUP: Nikita Koloff. **Mike Von Erich,** Warriors, Santana, Taylor, Barbarian, Race.

April 1986/COLOR PINUP: Ric Flair. **Wendi Richter,** Adams & Hernandez, Dusty & Warriors vs. Flair & Andersons.

May 1986/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steamboat. **Road Warriors,** Humongous, Bulldogs, Hansen vs. Martel.

June 1986/COLOR PINUP: Kevin Von Erich. **Hulk Hogan,** Adams, Duggan, Scott Hall.

July 1986/COLOR PINUP: King Kong Bundy. **R & R Express,** Hall and Hennig, Ventura, Warriors.

August 1986/COLOR PINUP: Dusty Rhodes. **Randy Savage,** Lugar vs. Race, Blanchard vs. Flair, Rude.

October 1986/COLOR PINUP: John Studd. **Nikita Koloff,** Savage vs. Bundy, Landell, Flair vs. Lugar, Simpson.

November 1986/COLOR PINUP: Baby Doll. **British Bulldogs,** Von Erich, Hansen, Gordy, Flair-Tully-Arn-Ole.

December 1986/COLOR PINUP: Great American Bash. **Great American Bash,** Midnight Rockers, Von Erich, Windham.

January 1987/COLOR PINUP: Fabulous Freebirds. **Roddy Piper,** Nikita vs. T.A., Snuka, Simpson.

February 1987/COLOR PINUP: Savage & Elizabeth. **UWF Tournament,** T.A., Baby Doll, Hogan vs. Orndorff.

April 1987/COLOR PINUP: Lex Luger. **Dusty & Nikita,** DiBiase, DeBeers, Dingo, WWF Housecleaning.

May 1987/COLOR PINUP: Steve Williams. **Andre-Hogan,** UWF Tourny, Albano, Cornette, Dynamite Kid, Kerry.

June 1987/COLOR PINUP: Hulk Hogan. **Magnum T.A.,** Can-Ams, Warriors, Freebirds, Hall.

July 1987/COLOR PINUP: Midnight Rockers. **Steamboat-Savage,** Luger, Duggan, Garvins, Sting.

August 1987/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Precious. **Hogan-Andre,** Warriors, Windham-Flair, Gordy, Bigelow.

October 1987/COLOR PINUP: Ted DiBiase. **Ric Flair,** Williams, Rockers, Hogan vs. Steamboat, NWA & WWF.

November 1987/COLOR PINUP: George Steele. **Nikita Koloff,** Warriors, Harts, Hogan, Windham.

January 1988/COLOR PINUP: The Road Warriors. **Ted DiBiase,** Flair-Garvins, Hogan & Ventura, Zbyszko.

February 1988/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin. **Randy Savage,** Garvin-Flair, Von Erichs, Freebirds.

April 1988/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. **Lex Luger,** Flair-Garvin, Kerry, Survivor Series, Iron Sheik.

May 1988/COLOR PINUP: Sting. **Andre,** Valentine-Beefcake, Flair, Cornette, Owen Hart.

June 1988/COLOR PINUP: Tully Blanchard. **Hulk Hogan,** Muraco, Perez, Rockers, Bunkhouse Stampede.

July 1988/COLOR PINUP: Curt Hennig. **Hogan vs. Andre,** Express vs. Rockers, Beefcake, Perez, Rotundo-Sting.

August 1988/COLOR PINUP: Al Perez. **Savage & Hogan,** Gilbert-Lawler, Four Horsemen, Kerry Von Erich.

October 1988/COLOR PINUP: Ultimate Warrior. **Sting,** Savage, Lawler, Williams, Steamboat, Varsity Club.

November 1988/COLOR PINUP: The Midnight Express. **Hogan,** Rhodes, Express, Powers of Pain.

December 1988/COLOR PINUP: Hacksaw Duggan. **Four Horsemen,** Brody, Bigelow, Garvin, Precious.

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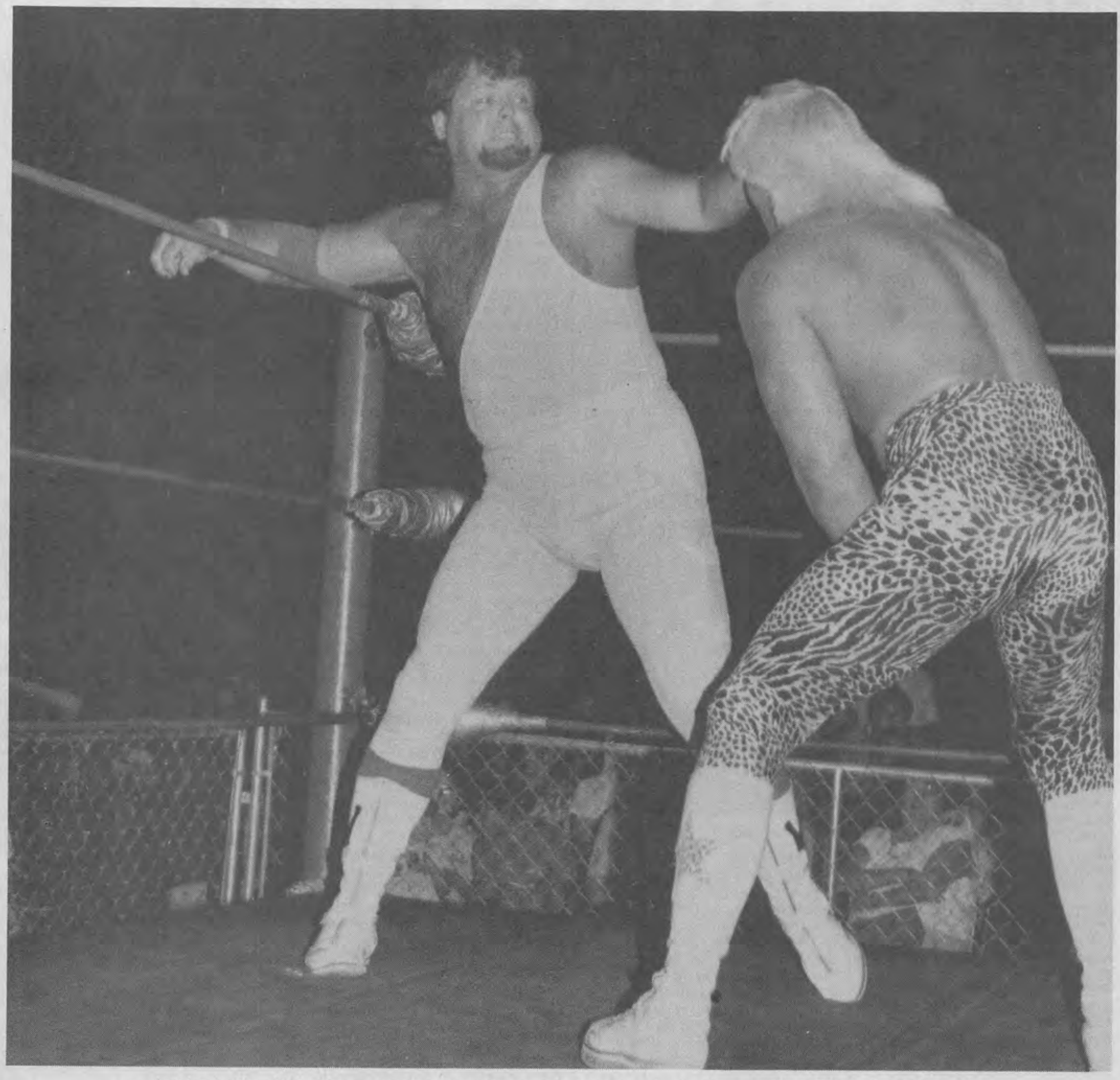
IDOL VS. LAWLER

(Continued from page 47)



Lawler battles Idol, who accuses Eddie Gilbert of helping Lawler hold on to the AWA belt. Both Lawler and Gilbert deny any association with each other and call Idol a fool.

larly unusual incident kept the title from changing hands that night.

Referee Pee Wee Anderson had been knocked out of the ring as Idol had Lawler in an excruciatingly painful figure-four leglock. Lawler was ready to submit the belt when he was rescued by a most unlikely individual: Eddie Gilbert, a member of Paul E. Dangerously's CWF stable. Gilbert ran in the ring and tossed fire at Idol, burning the right side of Austin's face and shoulder. Dangerous Dan Davis and Tom Prichard rescued Idol as Gilbert fled from the building.

"The thing that got me thinking," Idol said a month after the incident, "is that Gilbert used one of Lawler's old tricks, throwing fire, to get me. Now, where do you think he learned that from? I'm not saying that Lawler paid Gilbert to do that to me, but I'm not saying he didn't, either. You know, people are always praising Lawler for defending his belt all over the place, but he knows he has nothing to lose. Whenever he's in trouble, he'll find some way to get out of it."

Lawler, on the other hand, claims Idol's charges are ludicrous. "First of all, I helped Austin back to the dressing room after Gilbert burned him. I don't think I would've done that if I had set him up," Lawler said. "Secondly, there's no way I would ever deal

with Dangerously and Gilbert, and Idol knows that. And thirdly, I apologized to Jerry [Calhoun] for what I did to him, but I was just getting frustrated. Besides, I ran the risk of getting stripped of the belt for hitting a referee!"

Although Gilbert refused to discuss the burning incident at length, he did say that Lawler was uninvolved. "He didn't know anything about it," Gilbert said. "The only reason I did it was because I didn't want Idol to get that belt. It just goes to show you how stupid Idol is. He actually thought that I would do anything for Lawler? What a jackass!

"You know, they're *both* idiots."

•

What will become of Jerry Lawler and Austin Idol? Lawler is slowly edging toward a rulebreaker's philosophy, but it's doubtful that the Memphis fans will ever again root against him. Idol enjoys the cheers of the CWF fans but has retained a deep contempt for the CWA fans. Can he be a fan favorite in one area and a rulebreaker in the other?

"I think that when you're talking about Idol and Lawler, you have two men who behave differently against one another than they do against other wrestlers," said CWA broadcaster Lance Russell. "You know, 18 months isn't a very long time. But even if it was five years, I don't think Idol and Lawler will ever forget what they went through in 1987.

"That was one of the greatest feuds I've ever witnessed, and it was also painful for both men. Idol almost feels like he was run out of town, so he hates Lawler and the Memphis fans, while Lawler knows that Idol gave him the biggest fight of his life.

"But I don't think Idol will *ever* wear Lawler's crown," Russell concluded. "His belt, maybe, but the fans here will *always* love Jerry Lawler. He's an institution. That can *never* be taken away from him." □

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(Continued from page 20)

and a lot of the wrestlers very well. He introduced me to Doll and Scott Casey, who noticed right away that I was in pretty good shape. I'd been lifting weights for about six years, and they asked if I wanted to become a professional wrestler."

But Casey was much more than just in good condition. Casey impressed his trainers by displaying a superior combination of strength and speed. The youngster combined the two attributes into his powerslam and dropkick, his most successful finishing maneuvers, as well as his version of the DDT. After several months of training, Casey made his professional debut during the summer of 1987 against rugged Killer Brooks in Dallas.

"It was quite a match," recalled Casey. "I dropkicked him, split his upper lip, and knocked one of his teeth clear across the ring! It felt really good to do so well against such a tough veteran my first time out."

Casey's good fortune ran out only four matches later, as he broke his right ankle in a wild match against Tony Falk. That incident impeded his progress for several months. After competing in Pacific Northwest for a short time, Casey decided to return to World Class this past Feburary.

"I also decided to go after the junior heavyweight title right away," he said. "I had complete confidence in my skills, and I think Embry has been scared of me since day one."

Casey proved his point by defeating Embry in a series of non-title matches, which immediately made Casey the number-one contender. Embry challenged Casey to a best-of-three series of matches for the title, but would only agree to wrestle Casey if the

Casey backdrops Embry during their best-of-three title series. Although Embry won the series and refused to grant Casey a rematch, the youngster maintains that he is the better wrestler. He may be right.

youngster matched his wager of $5,000 for the series.

"I'm really just getting started as a wrestler," said Casey. "I really don't have that kind of money, so I had to borrow from my friends and family to match Casey's bet. Unfortunately, Embry pulled powder and a chain out of his tights to beat me during the third match in Dallas, and the referee didn't see it. Not only did I lose the matches *and* the money, but now Embry won't give me a rematch. But I'm not worried. I'll get that title—in fact, *nothing* will stop me until I teach Embry what being a *real* wrestler is all about."

Despite losing the series against Embry, Casey hasn't lost his competitive drive and spirit. He insists the fans help him keep his problems in perspective.

"There are very few 230-pounders who have the power that I do," said Casey. "My first goal is to get Embry in a fair match for the title, and I'm not going to rest until I do. But really, the most important thing in my career has to be the fans. Without their support, I'm sure I wouldn't be as far along with my career as I am now. With the people on my side, I'm sure my future in wrestling will be limitless." □

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SHOCKER IN VEGAS

(Continued from page 49)

About to tumble out of the ring, Mando decides to take Tanaka with him! Tanaka, Diamond, and "Diamond" Dallas Page promise never to take the Guerreros lightly again.

losers in Las Vegas, daddy," boasted Page recently, who was flanked by one of his gorgeous Diamond Dolls. "But I'm one of the few who win *all* the time here. Whether I'm at the tables or at ringside, I can't lose with Diamond and Tanaka. My Diamond Exchange is like money in the bank, baby. We are unbeatable, and we prove it every time."

When promoters offered Bad Company a match against veterans Mando and Chavo Guerrero, Page believed he had another sure bet on his hands.

"Those oldsters?" laughed Page upon receiving the contract. "Easy pickings, man. I thought Chavo was retired! These guys have *got* to be kidding!"

Page's confidence would soon turn into humiliation. Tanaka and Diamond suffered the worst drubbing of their championship reign at the hands of the Guerreros, an unranked team making its first Las Vegas appearance. It was a match that would change the AWA tag team picture drastically, as Mando and Chavo dominated the champions for the duration of a thrilling, action-packed match. Tanaka and Diamond aren't used to being on the defensive, and this battle proved that they need to be on the *offensive* to win.

But as Page himself said, there are always winners and losers in Vegas. While Tanaka and Diamond managed to retain their title on a disqualification verdict, it was clear to everyone in the arena that they were outwrestled by two master technicians, a fact even more surprising since Bad Company had been running rampant over every other team in the AWA.

"How we performed should really come as no surprise," laughed Chavo Guerrero after the bout. "Mando and myself are brothers, and we are used to teaming together. The way Page and his boys talk, you would believe that we are just a couple of veterans looking for one last payday. But these 'old-timers' certainly taught Tanaka and Diamond a wrestling lesson, didn't we?"

What Page didn't know was that the Guerreros have teamed regularly in the All-California Wrestling Association for most of this year, battling a host of rulebreaking teams. Mando had been competing singly in the AWA for several months, impressing the fans with his wealth of scientific skills. When the 225-pound veteran announced that he would bring his brother Chavo to the federation for tag matches, promoters were quick to sign a match between the Mexican team and Tanaka and Diamond, who are not favorites of AWA officials.

It turned out to be the most important title match of the year. From the opening bell, Mando and Chavo dazzled the crowd—and Tanaka and Diamond—with their wealth of unmatched aerial and on-the-mat maneuvers, many of which are becoming a rarity in pro rings. Tanaka and Diamond were so perplexed that they began arguing with each other, an unprecedented occurrence.

The end of the bout saw a brawl erupt at ringside, during which Page was knocked silly by Chavo. Even the latest Diamond Doll, Tanya, suffered an embarrassing spanking at the hands of both Guerreros. This was an incident Tanaka and Diamond weren't about to take lightly.

"I'll be honest with you," said Tanaka, still bristling from the matchup. "I haven't seen moves like those since my amateur days. We should have done our homework a little better coming into this match, but that doesn't excuse what those greaseballs did tonight. They have some nerve putting their hands on Dallas and Tanya like that, and now we're out for blood. Just wait until those guys see what we have in store for them next month."

What Page had in store was Col. DeBeers, the South African

mercenary who established himself in the AWA last year. Page immediately challenged the Guerreros to a three-man match against his stable at The Showboat.

"Let them pick any partner they want," the manager screamed. "We don't care who it is. We're gonna kick their wetback butts all over the Pavilion."

The Guerreros countered Page's move by bringing in their *third* brother, Hector, for the three-man match. As fate would have it, it was the youngest Guerrero who scored the pinfall over Diamond—despite Page's attempts at interference—in one of the wildest bouts seen in Las Vegas this year.

"This proves that the Guerreros are truly the number-one contenders to Bad Company's title," claimed Mando after the victory. "All we need now is another title bout. Any combination of Guerreros can beat those two so-called champions. We realize there are other fine teams in the AWA, such as Ricky Rice and John Paul, but we feel that after this victory we should get top consideration. We would be very proud to earn that title."

And now Page is trying to keep his team *away* from two men he had previously scoffed at, mainly because he realizes that his team *can* be beaten. After months of dominating the AWA, Pat Tanaka and Paul Diamond must now regroup and try to regain the status they have suddenly lost.

Meanwhile, Page can still be seen in the finest casinos in Las Vegas, usually playing the slot machines. Every time he spins and fails to win, he probably sees the faces of Mando, Chavo, and Hector Guerrero in those slots. Page has always believed that he can't lose, but with the Guerreros holding the trump cards, he may soon have to cash in his chips—perhaps for the final time. ☐

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260, Denton, TX
World Class champion

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302, Venice Beach, CA
No. 3 contender: WWF title

10 **THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
280, Queens, NY
WWF Intercontinental champion

TAG TEAMS

1 **TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON**
Combined weight: 484 pounds
NWA World tag team champions

2 **DEMOLITION**
Combined weight: 585 pounds
WWF World tag team champions

3 **THE ROAD WARRIORS**
Combined weight: 567 pounds
No. 2 contenders: NWA tag team title

4 **BOBBY EATON & STAN LANE**
Combined weight: 453 pounds
U.S. tag team champions

5 **WARLORD & BARBARIAN**
Combined weight: 655 pounds
No. 1 contenders: WWF tag team title

6 **THE FANTASTICS**
Combined weight: 462 pounds
No. 1 contenders: U.S. tag team title

7 **PAT TANAKA & PAUL DIAMOND**
Combined weight: 456 pounds
AWA World tag team champions

8 **THE HART FOUNDATION**
Combined weight: 515 pounds
No. 2 contenders: WWF tag team title

9 **THE BRITISH BULLDOGS**
Combined weight: 461 pounds
No. 3 contenders: WWF tag team title

10 **SHANE DOUGLAS & HUMONGOUS**
Combined weight: 541 pounds
Continental tag team champions

NWA

World Champion:
RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN

1—**BARRY WINDHAM**
236, Sweetwater, TX

2—**LEX LUGER**
268, Chicago, IL

3—**STING**
260, Venice Beach, CA

4—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX

5—**STEVE WILLIAMS**
265, Norman, OK

6—**AL PEREZ**
238, Tampa, FL

7—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia

8—**MIKE ROTUNDO**
245, Syracuse, NY

9—**RICK MORTON**
228, Memphis, TN

10—**RICK STEINER**
248, Detroit, MI

WWF

World Champion:
RANDY SAVAGE
245, Sarasota, FL

1—**THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
280, Queens, NY

2—**TED DiBIASE**
247, Omaha, NB

3—**HULK HOGAN**
302, Venice Beach, CA

4—**ANDRE THE GIANT**
497, Grenoble, France

5—**THE HONKY TONK MAN**
255, Memphis, TN

6—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, Glens Falls, NY

7—**BRUTUS BEEFCAKE**
273, San Francisco, CA

8—**JAKE ROBERTS**
246, Stone Mountain, GA

9—**RICK RUDE**
246, Robbinsdale, MN

10—**BAD NEWS BROWN**
280, New York, NY

AWA

World Champion:
JERRY LAWLER
234, Memphis, TN

1—**GREG GAGNE**
220, Robbinsdale, MN

2—**KERRY VON ERICH**
260, Denton, TX

3—**SOLDAT USTINOV**
265, Moscow, Russia

4—**WAHOO McDANIEL**
280, Midland, TX

5—**MANNY FERNANDEZ**
245, El Paso, TX

6—**COL. DeBEERS**
248, Cape Town, South Africa

7—**AUSTIN IDOL**
240, Las Vegas, NV

8—**EDDIE GILBERT**
222, Lexington, TN

9—**MANDO GUERRERO**
225, Mexico City, Mexico

10—**TEIJHO KHAN**
265, Singapore

WORLD CLASS

World Class Champion:
KERRY VON ERICH
260, Denton, TX

1—**ICEMAN PARSONS**
245, St. Louis, MO

2—**JERRY LAWLER**
234, Memphis, TN

3—**KEVIN VON ERICH**
235, Denton, TX

4—**KAMALA**
360, Uganda

5—**ERIC EMBRY**
225, Lexington, KY

6—**STEVEN CASEY**
230, San Antonio, TX

7—**BUDDY ROBERTS**
247, Del City, OK

8—**MICHAEL HAYES**
255, Marietta, GA

9—**TERRY GORDY**
289, Chattanooga, TN

10—**BILL IRWIN**
250, Duluth, MN

OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings.

For period ended September 1, 1988

MOST POPULAR

1 **HULK HOGAN**
302, Venice Beach, CA
Last month: unrated

2 **RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
Last month: No. 1 Most Popular

3 **LEX LUGER**
268, Chicago, IL
Last month: No. 3 Most Popular

4 **STING**
260, Venice Beach, CA
Last month: No. 2 Most Popular

5 **DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
Last month: No. 5 Most Popular

6 **HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, Glens Falls, NY
Last month: No. 6 Most Popular

7 **THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
280, Queens, NY
Last month: No. 9 Most Popular

8 **JERRY LAWLER**
234, Memphis, TN
Last month: No. 7 Most Popular

9 **JAKE ROBERTS**
246, Stone Mountain, GA
Last month: No. 4 Most Popular

10 **KERRY VON ERICH**
260, Denton, TX
Last month: No. 8 Most Popular

MOST HATED

1 **ANDRE THE GIANT**
497, Grenoble, France
Last month: No. 1 Most Hated

2 **RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN
Last month: No. 2 Most Hated

3 **TED DiBIASE**
247, Omaha, NB
Last month: No. 3 Most Hated

4 **BARRY WINDHAM**
236, Sweetwater, TX
Last month: No. 4 Most Hated

5 **RICK RUDE**
246, Robbinsdale, MN
Last month: No. 5 Most Hated

6 **EDDIE GILBERT**
222, Lexington, TN
Last month: No. 7 Most Hated

7 **THE HONKY TONK MAN**
255, Memphis, TN
Last month: No. 6 Most Hated

8 **GREG VALENTINE**
243, Seattle, WA
Last month: No. 10 Most Hated

9 **KEVIN SULLIVAN**
252, Boston, MA
Last month: unrated

10 **BUDDY ROBERTS**
247, Del City, OK
Last month: unrated

CUMULATIVE RATINGS

These ratings are based on the past 10 issues of this magazine. We have examined our ratings for each of those issues—in our Top 10 and Tag Team categories only—and assigned each position a point value: 10 points for a number-one rating, nine for a number-two ranking, and so on down to one point for a number-10 rating. The point values for all wrestlers in the past 10 issues have been compiled, allowing a maximum of 100 points. Each issue we'll present the top five finishers in each category. While our regular ratings reflect the past month, these cumulative ratings give an indication of wider trends in the sport.

SINGLES

1—RIC FLAIR ....96 points
2—RANDY SAVAGE ....80 points
3—LEX LUGER ....48 points
4—HULK HOGAN ....46 points
5—STING ....42 points

TAG TEAMS

1—TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON ...92 points
2—THE ROAD WARRIORS ....83 points
3—BOBBY EATON & STAN LANE ....67 points
4—DEMOLITION ....57 points
5—THE FANTASTICS ....35 points

STAMPEDE

North American Champion:
MAKHAN SINGH
380, Saginaw, MI

1—**JOHNNY SMITH** *235, Manchester, England*
2—**STEVE DiSALVO** *298, Boston, MA*
3—**BRUCE HART** *211, Calgary, Alberta*
4—**CHRIS BENOIT** *218, Edmonton, Alberta*
5—**STEVE BLACKMAN** *250, Pittsburgh, PA*
6—**VULKAN SINGH** *300, Billings, MT*
7—**LANCE IDOL** *225, Hollywood, CA*
8—**GAMA SINGH** *220, Karachi, Pakistan*
9—**JERRY MORROW** *235, Martinique*
10—**GOLDIE ROGERS** *223, Hollywood, CA*

CWA

CWA Champion:
PHIL HICKERSON
257, Jackson, TN

1—**BRICKHOUSE BROWN** *225, Winter Haven, FL*
2—**SCOTT STEINER** *235, Detroit, MI*
3—**ROBERT FULLER** *238, Dyresburg, TN*
4—**JEFF JARRETT** *200, Hendersonville, TN*
5—**JIMMY VALIANT** *251, New York, NY*
6—**TOMMY RICH** *248, Hendersonville, TN*
7—**GARY YOUNG** *240, Houston, TX*
8—**JIMMY GOLDEN** *235, Montgomery, AL*
9—**BUDDY LANDELL** *236, Los Angeles, CA*
10—**BILLY TRAVIS** *218, Houston, TX*

CONTINENTAL

Continental Champion:
TITLE VACANT
To be filled in elimination tourney

1—**EDDIE GILBERT** *222, Lexington, TN*
2—**AUSTIN IDOL** *240, Las Vegas, NV*
3—**WILLIE B. HERT** *238, El Paso, TX*
4—**LORD HUMONGOUS** *325, parts unknown*
5—**KEN WAYNE** *208, Memphis, TN*
6—**DAN DAVIS** *238, Nashville, TN*
7—**JERRY STUBBS** *242, Pensacola, FL*
8—**SHANE DOUGLAS** *223, Pittsburgh, PA*
9—**TONY ANTHONY** *235, Bucksnorth, TN*
10—**TOM PRICHARD** *220, Houston, TX*

WWC

WWC Champion:
TITLE VACANT
To be filled in upcoming tourney

1—**HERCULES AYALA** *273, Bayamon, Puerto Rico*
2—**CARLOS COLON** *246, Santa Isabel, PR*
3—**RICKY SANTANA** *235, Orlando, FL*
4—**MIGUEL PEREZ JR.** *232, Carolena, PR*
5—**BUDDY LANDELL** *236, Los Angeles, CA*
6—**ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER** *360, Khartoum, Sudan*
7—**TNT** *242, parts unknown*
8—**KAMALA** *360, Uganda*
9—**DUTCH MANTEL** *224, Oil Trough, TX*
10—**DAN SPIVEY** *300, Tampa, FL*

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 135 wrestlers in 12 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

Your silly ratings are in! Back in the October 1988 issue of *The Wrestler,* we asked you to send in your ratings in any number of offbeat categories. Well, as in 1986 when we ran this feature for the first time, your response was overwhelming. "Ratings Analysis" mail has picked up considerably and most of those letters include a silly ratings category.

Some samples of your categories and ratings:

Jennifer Dean of Elkton, Virginia, sent along a list that truly sets the tone for this column. It's **The 10 Biggest Feet In Wrestling:** 1—Andre the Giant; 2—Big Bossman; 3—Hulk Hogan; 4—Terry Gordy; 5—Barry Windham; 6—Road Warrior Animal;—The Russian Assassin; 8—One Man Gang; 9—Arn Anderson; 10—Dusty Rhodes.

The Road Warriors

Paul Pratt of Silver Springs, Florida, sent along his ratings of **10 Tag Teams That Should Change Federations:** 1—The Road Warriors (NWA to WWF); 2—The Midnight Rockers (WWF to NWA); 3—Bad Company (AWA to NWA); 4—The Young Stallions (WWF to AWA); 5—The Midnight Express (NWA to WWF); 6—Killer Bees (WWF to World Class); 7—Hart Foundation (WWF to NWA); 8—British Bulldogs (WWF to AWA); 9—John Tatum & Jack Victory (World Class to AWA); 10—The Rougeau Brothers (WWF to AWA). Paul also sent along a most intriguing list: **10 Wrestlers That Should Have A Title But Don't:** 1—Al Perez; 2—Jake Roberts; 3—Greg Valentine; 4—Steve Williams; 5—Rick Rude; 6—Terry Taylor; 7—Eddie Gilbert; 8—Bam Bam Bigelow; 9—Lex Luger; 10—The Road Warriors.

Gary Graham of Zanesville, Ohio, submitted his list of the **Top 10 Sons of Famous Wrestling Fathers:** 1—Barry Windham (Blackjack Mulligan); 2—Owen Hart (Stu Hart); 3—Kerry Von Erich (Fritz Von Erich); 4—Kevin Von Erich; 5—Curt Hennig (Larry Hennig); 6—Tully Blanchard (Joe Blanchard); 8—Greg Valentine (Johnny Valentine); 9—Brad Armstrong (Bob Armstrong); 10—Kendall Windham (Blackjack Mulligan).

Carlie Gill of Anchorage, Alaska, lists 10 wrestlers she finds **Simply Irresistible:** 1—Michael Hayes; 2—Al Perez; 3—Kerry Von Erich; 4—Lex Luger; 5—Sting; 6—Kevin Von Erich; 7—Shane Douglas; 8—Steve Cox; 9—Jeff Jarrett; 10—Steve Simpson. And Anne Winter of Eaton, Ohio, judged the wrestlers based upon **Best Ring Attire:** 1—Brutus Beefcake; 2—Rick Rude; 3—The Honky Tonk Man; 4—British Bulldogs; 5—The Rougeau Brothers; 6—Sting; 7—Jake Roberts; 8—The Midnight Express; 9—Max Pain; 10—Demolition.

Randy Trudeau of Cudahy, Wisconsin, sent along two interesting lists. First, the **Top 10 Scientific Wrestlers:** 1—Ric Flair; 2—Barry Windham; 3—Bret Hart; 4—Ted DiBiase; 5—Owen Hart; 6—Al Perez; 7—Mike Rotundo; 8—Curt Hennig; 9—Greg Gagne; 10—Greg Valentine. Also rated were **10 Wrestlers Who Have Lost Their Killer Instinct:** 1—Randy Savage; 2—Bam Bam Bigelow; 3—Michael Hayes; 4—Brutus Beefcake; 5—Warlord; 6—The Barbarian; 7—Nikita Koloff; 8—Austin Idol; 9—Jason the Terrible; 10—Terry Gordy.

Ron and Jeff Gorman combined to compile a list of **15 Wrestlers Most In Need Of A Personality Implant:** 1—"Smilin'" Rick Steiner; 2—Dick "The Dentist" Murdoch; 3—"Rancher" Ronnie Garvin; 4—Mike "The Mechanic" Rotundo; 5—"Gangster" Greg Gagne; 6—"Baby Boy" Barry Windham; 7—Makhan "The Saginaw Stud" Singh; 8—Owen "The Optometrist" Hart; 9—Brian "The Baptist" Pillman; 10—"Coal Miner" Curt Hennig; 11—Eric "The Elephant Man" Embry; 12—Austin "The Accountant" Idol; 13—"Detective" Dutch Mantel; 14—Max "The Green Grocer" Pain; 15—"Trash Can" Stan Hansen.

Lex Luger

Beverly Oancia of Regina, Saskatchewan, who says she can't get enough of silly ratings, lists the **Best Nicknames In Wrestling:** 1—The Total Package; 2—Dr. Death; 3—The Russian Nightmare; 4—Modern-Day Warrior; 5—Gamesmaster; 6—Macho Man; 7—The Million Dollar Man; 8—Dirty White Boy; 9—Hot Stuff; 10—Nature Boy.

Look for the January 1989 edition of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* for more of your off-beat ratings. Judging by your response, this could become a regular feature of "Ratings Analysis."

Back to Puerto Rico. For the third time since its inception, "Ratings Analysis" this month takes a look at the World Wrestling Council, based in Puerto Rico. At press time, the WWC was looking forward to its big September 6 anniversary show, featuring a fire match for the heavyweight title between **Hercules Ayala** and **Carlos Colon**. Ayala was stripped of the title because of an incident during the WWC's awards ceremony in late August. Also scheduled to appear on that card were **Wahoo McDaniel**, **Dan Spivey**, **Abdullah the Butcher**, **Dutch Mantel**, **Jimmy Valiant**, **The Iron Sheik**, **Ronnie Garvin**, and **Buddy Landell**.

That's all, folks! But keep those cards and letters coming, and don't forget to keep sending in your silly ratings categories. The address for mail is: "Ratings Analysis," c/o *The Wrestler;* Box 48; Rockville Centre, NY, 11571. □

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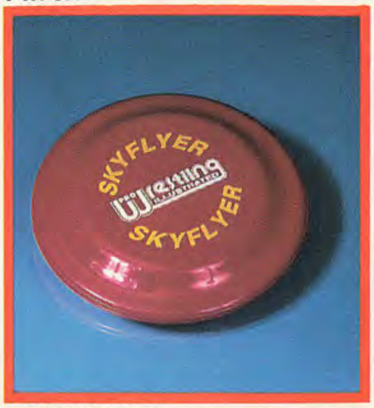

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	5449	Harley Race		5421	"New" Tito Santana (not pictured)
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